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Latin America Report

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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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JANUARY-APRIL GASOLINE CONSUMPTION DOWN, ETHANOL USE UP

Rio de Janeiro GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 17 May 84 p 11

[Text] Between January and April of this year, the consumption of petroleum by-products was 17.596 million cubic meters, the equivalent of 914,700 barrels per day, showing a 3.4 percent drop when compared with the same period in 1983. With the exception of diesel oil, all the leading petroleum by-products (gasoline, fuel oil and liquefied petroleum gas) were consumed in smaller quantities during the last 4 months.

Meanwhile, the consumption of hydrated alcohol amounted to 1,241,400 cubic meters (64,500 barrels per day), 56 percent more than during the first 4 months of last year. Keeping pace with the gasoline market, the consumption of anhydrous alcohol, totaling 680,500 cubic meters (35,400 barrels per day) dropped 17.3 percent. As for gasoline, 2,658,900 cubic meters (138,200 barrels per day) were burned, 14.4 percent less than during the first 4 months of last year.

The consumption of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), a product the supply of which has been controlled by the government since last year, continues to decline. During the period from January to April, the domestic market absorbed 1,895,100 cubic meters (98,500 barrels) of liquefied petroleum gas, with a 0.9 percent reduction. Now, the consumption of fuel oil has dropped 16.1 percent, amounting to 3,141,600 cubic meters.

Diesel oil had a tendency opposite that of the other by-products. From January to April, buses and industries burned 5,853,900 cubic meters of this product (304,500 barrels per day); in other words, 2.5 percent more than during the first 4 months of last year.

More Diesel

PETROBRAS has an ongoing policy for extracting more diesel from every barrel of petroleum, as a means of keeping pace with the increasing consumption of this by-product. The type B diesel, a more perishable derivative, is being tested by some shippers, including the Municipal Mass Transportation Company of Sao Paulo (CMTC). Within about a year, the state company will have compiled the results of the field experiments so as, on that basis, to be able to market the product at a price lower than that of the conventional diesel.

(1)			
(2) Derivados			
(3) (consumo jan-abr)			
(4) (em 1.000 m ³)			
	1984	1983	%
(4) Gasolina	2.658,9	3.106,4	-14,4
Dieisel.....	5.853,9	5.713,5	+2,5
GLP.....	3.141,6	3.773,3	-16,1
(5) Alcool Hid.	1.241,4	795,6	+56,0
(6) Alcool Anidro	680,5	822,4	-17,3
Total	17.596,0	18.217,1	-3,4
Fonte: Petrobrás. (7)			

Key to Chart:

1. By-Products
2. Jan.-Apr. Consumption
3. In thousands of cubic meters
4. Gasoline
5. Hydrous Alcohol
6. Anhydrous Alcohol
7. Source: PETROBRAS

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CSO: 3342/110

SUFFICIENCY OF OIL STOCKS, PURCHASES FROM MIDDLE EAST VIEWED

Rio de Janeiro GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 18 May 84 p 2

[Text] With sufficient oil stocks to keep the country supplied for 120 days (the largest amount in the past 2 years), and because it is faced with an oversupplied market, PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] should have everything necessary to enable it to easily keep up with the conflicts in the Persian Gulf. However, this is not the case, according to an assessment made by a high-ranking source in PETROBRAS. The worsening, or even the continuation of the present situation in that area may not represent a threat to the oil supply, either to the Brazilian state company, or to the other consumers. In the view of this same source, however, one thing is certain: The market will become stronger (he claims that the constant hikes in spot prices are now a system) and the state company's accounts with imports will have to be revised, because the tendency will be to seek other markets which will become more appreciated at the very outset of redirection. Therefore, PETROBRAS' net expenditures from oil imports could exceed the anticipated \$4.8 billion this year.

To anyone seeking oil in the Gulf, the current figures are frightening: If a company purchases 2 million barrels of oil (worth \$60 million), and transports it on a ship insured for \$40 million, it will have to pay a premium of 3 percent of the value of the ship and 2% of that of the cargo; in other words \$2.4 million. But the figures during this period of oversupply are also significant: The oil producers are in a position to sell another 10 million barrels per day on the market, a sufficient amount to supply the world market for 15 days. And the world stocks cover the consumption for a period of 90 days.

PETROBRAS is heedful of those figures. As a purchaser of from 630,000 to 650,000 barrels of oil per day, it does not have the slightest interest in increasing the numbers of those volumes leaving the Gulf. Although a decision such as this could mean importing from 90,000 to 100,000 barrels per day in other countries, a rather small volume in comparison with the world supply, it would suffice, for this purpose, to stop the exports of by-products.

For the present, as PETROBRAS' commercial superintendent, Hamilton Sergio Albertazza, made it clear on Tuesday, the company's position is one of attentive observation. That same message was conveyed yesterday, at the monthly

meeting of the company's board members and department heads. And, for the time being, there is no reason to rush. PETROBRAS' schedule for purchases in Gulf calls for a shipment in Ras Tanura at the end of this month, and a second, on 10 June, sufficient time for the company to study what it will do, as the chief of the Transportation Department's Operations Division, Roberto Goncalves Gomes, admitted. He said: "The purchases have not been stopped," emphasizing, however, that there are devices to avoid the risk of another attack: to reduce the speed of the ships, to keep them in other ports for a longer time, etc. He added: "We are studying the behavior of the shipowners, the insurers and the conflict. Over the short term, we have reason to hope."

At the present time, PETROBRAS' oil purchases through the Persian Gulf amount to 190,000 barrels per day, that is, the equivalent of 29.7 percent of its total imports, 640,000 barrels per day. Coming from Saudi Arabia are 100,000 barrels per day; from Iran, 45,000 barrels per day; and from Kuwait and Qatar, 45,000 barrels per day. The Iraqi oil, totaling 160,000 barrels per day, is exported through the Mediterranean Sea. In other words, over 50 percent of Brazil's oil imports are concentrated in the Middle East. The other purchases are distributed over Africa, Asia and South America. And, considering the fact that of the 120,000 barrels imported from Nigeria, 110,000 relate to a contract on refining for reexport, the African countries carry less weight in the pattern of Brazilian imports.

Key to Chart:

1. Brazilian Imports
2. Exporting Country
3. Thousands of Barrel Per day
4. Iraq
5. Saudi Arabia
6. Iran
7. Kuwait and Quatar
8. Soviet Union
9. Algeria
10. Domestic Production
11. Average Consumption During the Period January-April
12. Source: PETROBRAS and GAZETA MERCANTIL Information Center

(1) As Importações Brasileiras	
(2) País exportador	(3) Mil barris diários
Iraque (4)	160
Nigéria	120
Arábia Saudita (5)	100
Venezuela (6)	60
Irã (7)	45
Kuwait e Qatar (7)	45
México	40
China	30
União Soviética (8)	20
Angola	10
Argélia (9)	10
Total	640
Produção Interna (10)	440
Consumo Médio no Período de Janeiro a abril —	914,7 (11)
Fonte: Petrobrás e Centro de Informações da Gazeta Mercantil (12)	

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CSO: 3342/110

GAS, OIL PRODUCTION RISES 40.2 PERCENT IN FIRST 4 MONTHS OF 1984

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 May 84 p 15

[Text] The total production of petroleum and natural gas has undergone a 40.2 percent increase during the first 4 months of this year, in comparison with the same period last year. If only petroleum production is considered, the increment was 40.5 percent for the same period, according to data procured from the technical areas of PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation].

During the first 4 months, the national petroleum and natural gas production amounted to 53,699,344 barrels, being 40.2 percent larger than that for the same period of the previous year, which totaled 38,286,101 barrels.

Petroleum production alone (onshore and offshore) totaled 52,324,230 barrels during the period from January to April of this year. During the same period last year, it was 37,247,806 barrels.

In the month of April, the national petroleum and natural gas production amounted to about 13,610,203 barrels, whereas during the same month last year it was 9,564,553 barrels. When April 1984 is compared with April 1983, the national production showed a 42.3 percent increment, still according to the data received from PETROBRAS. Until recently, the latter were published monthly, but their disclosure has also just been stopped.

The production in Rio during the first 4 months rose 79.2 percent in comparison with that of the same period last year, increasing from 15,616,000 barrels to 27,990,000 barrels.

**PRODUÇÃO DE ÓLEO E
GÁS NATURAL POR ESTADO**
(1) (BARRIS)

(2)	(3) Jan/Abril de 83	(4) Jan/Abril de 84
Procedência		
Bahia	9.704.740	9.634.785
Sergipe	5.938.761	6.659.093
Alagoas	596.298	712.100
Rio de Janeiro	15.616.667	27.990.686
Espírito Santo	2.277.580	2.562.257
R. G. do Norte	2.674.329	2.958.275
Ceará	1.477.726	2.927.210
Pará	—	190.141
Maranhão	—	2.239
Paraná	—	62.558
Total	38.286.101	53.699.344

Key to Chart:

1. Oil and Natural Gas Production by State (Barrels)
2. Origin
3. Jan/Apr 83
4. Jan/Apr 84

ELECTRIC ENERGY USE UP 8.5 PERCENT IN APRIL

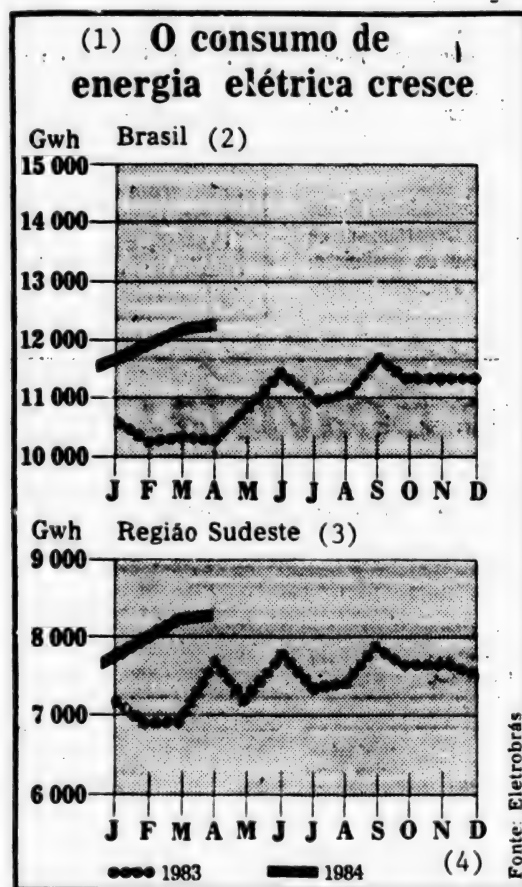
Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 May 84 p 15

[Text] According to ELETROBRAS [Brazilian Electric Power Companies, Inc], the consumption of electric energy in Brazil increased 8.5 percent during April in comparison with the same month last year. The rate of increase for the last 12 months (May 1983 to April 1984) was 9.5 percent, in comparison with the previous 12 months, whereas the figure for the 4-month period amounted to 12.9 percent.

ELETROBRAS explains that the rise in energy consumption which occurred during April may be underestimated, on the basis of two main factors: 1. Eletropaulo, whose sales of electric power account for approximately 26 percent of the total for the country, computed only 26 days of billing (four less than it should have); 2. similar problems which occurred in the area covered by CEMIG [Minas Gerais Electric Powerplants, Inc], which accounts for nearly 14 percent of electric power sales.

According to ELETROBRAS, the industrial consumption during the past 12 months increased 10.6 percent over the same period last year, influenced by the conduct of certain industrial sectors, primarily the metallurgical one, and by the market for electrothermics (a substitution for fuel oil and other petroleum by-products with cheaper electricity).

The consumption by EGTD EGTD and ESNG (cheaper rates for certain purposes) accounted for 4.3 percent of the total consumption for the first 4 months of the year. ELETROBRAS stresses the importance of this consumption (which contributed to the replacement of petroleum), inasmuch as, when subtracted from the total consumption, it makes the rate of increase for the period from January to April 1984 decline from 12.9 to 9.4 percent, in comparison with the same period last year.



Key to Chart 1:

1. Electric Power Consumption Increases
2. Brazil
3. Southeast Region
4. Source: ELETROBRAS

(1) Maiores Consumidoras de Energia		
(2) JAN a MAR-83/JAN a MAR-84		
(3) I-	BENS DE CAPITAL	7,23
(4)	BENS INTERMEDIARIOS	10,77
(5)	BENS CONSUMO	-5,78
(6)	Consum Durável	-11,73
(7)	Consumo não Durável	-4,63
(8) II	INDUSTRIA DE TRANSFORMA- ÇÃO	3,08
(9)	Minerais não Metálicos	-4,43
(10)	Metallurgia	13,80
(11)	Material de Transporte	3,66
(12)	Papel e Papelão	7,70
(13)	Química	9,85
(14)	Têxtil	-3,00
(15)	Prod. Alimentares.....	-4,78
FONTE: IBGE (16)		

Key to Chart 2:

1. Largest Power Consumers
2. Jan-Mar 83 to Mar 84
3. Capital Goods
4. Intermediate Goods
5. Consumer Goods
6. Durable Consumption
7. Non-Durable Consumption
8. Manufacturing Industry
9. Non Metallic Ores
10. Metallurgy
11. Transportation Material
12. Paper and Cardboard
13. Chemical
14. Textile
15. Food Products
16. Source: IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics]

(1) CRESCIMENTO DO CONSUMO DE ENERGIA ELÉTRICA								
(2) Últimos doze meses sobre igual período do ano anterior								
(3) RESIDENCIAL		(4) COMERCIAL		INDUSTRIAL		TOTAL		
	1983 ⁽¹⁾	1984 ⁽²⁾	1983 ⁽¹⁾	1984 ⁽²⁾	1983 ⁽¹⁾	1984 ⁽²⁾	1983 ⁽¹⁾	1984 ⁽²⁾
Norte (5)	16,3	10,6	13,1	11,0	18,3	9,6	23,6	8,4
Nordeste (6)	14,0	10,3	12,0	11,5	3,6	17,8	7,9	14,6
Sudeste (7)	8,7	6,7	8,2	7,3	6,7	9,0	7,4	8,1
Sul (8)	14,0	10,8	10,7	7,1	10,4	8,5	11,9	9,9
Centro Oeste (9)	15,7	11,7	14,3	8,2	21,8	37,5	15,8	16,1
Total	10,6	8,1	9,5	8,0	6,9	10,6	8,6	9,5
(10) (1) — Últimos doze meses mai.82 a Abr.83/Mai.81 a Abr.82 (2) — Últimos doze meses mai.83 a Abr.84/Mai.82 a Abr.83 1974 — Taxas Preliminares (11)								

Key to Chart 3:

1. Increase in Electric Power Consumption
2. Last 12 Months Over Same Period Last Year
3. Residential
4. Commercial
5. North
6. Northeast
7. Southeast
8. South
9. West Central
10. Last 12 Months, May 82 to Apr 83/May 81 to Apr 82
11. Last 12 Months, May 83 to Apr 84/May 82 to Apr 83, 1974 - Preliminary Rates

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RIO, SAO PAULO TO RECEIVE ELECTRICITY FROM ITAIPU IN SEPTEMBER

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 May 84 p 31

[Text] Foz de Iguacu--Within 4 months, the electric power consumers in Rio and Sao Paulo will receive in their homes for the first time the electricity produced by the Itaipu plant. The transmission line extending from Foz do Iguacu to Sao Paulo will be connected in September, according to a report given in Foz do Iguacu by engineer Joao Augusto Macedo Costa, conversion coordinator for Furnas Electric Powerplants.

However, he pointed out that this supply would be provided by way of a test, and could be interrupted at any time. The start of the permanent supply has been set for the end of December or early January 1985, when the line will go into commercial operation.

But the residents of Rio and Sao Paulo (as well as the other consumers in the southeastern region, because, upon arriving in Sao Paulo, the power from Itaipu will be redistributed throughout the entire region) will not be the first. Last week, also by way of a test, the residents of Parana received 50,000 kilowatts from the Itaipu plant, through Paraguay.

Since 5 May, the first of Itaipu's 18 turbines has been operating and sending nearly 100,000 kilowatts to Paraguay. Last week, Itaipu increased the turbine's power to 200,000 kilowatts, to test it. Since the total capacity of Paraguay is 230,000 kilowatts, that country would have to disconnect all its own power plants in order to receive the 200,000 from Itaipu. Therefore, during the test, 50,000 kilowatts were retransmitted through Paraguay to Copel, the Parana state electricity company. When the test was completed, the plant returned to the previous power, which will not be expanded again until September, to start supplying Brazil.

Itaipu's transmission system includes two direct current circuits and three with alternating current. At present, one of the direct current circuits is ready and being tested, connecting Foz do Iguacu to Sao Roque, in the vicinity of the Sao Paulo capital. This is the one that will be energized in September.

That circuit will be sufficient to transmit the power generated in four 50-cyle turbines from Itaipu. For the other five turbines there will be a second

circuit, which will not be required until 1987. Also ready is the Foz do Iguazu converter substation, located 8 kilometers from the power plant. It is the first direct current substation built in the country.

In addition to the direct current circuits, the transmission line includes alternating current circuits, a technology already very well known in Brazil. The first of these will not go into operation until 1986. Itaipu's complete transmission system will cost the equivalent of \$2.5 billion in direct investments, 85 percent of which consists of expenditures in cruzeiros, as Sergio Motta reported.

When all of Itaipu's 18 turbines are in full commercial operation, which will not occur until the end of the decade, Itaipu alone will account for 30 percent of the electric power consumed in the country.

Blackout

The blackout which parlayed the entire southeastern region last month, caused by a slight failure in the almost unknown Jaguará powerplant in Minas Gerais, aroused in many people the fear that, when the industrial heart of the country is being supplied by a single, gigantic powerplant, the electric supply system will be very vulnerable to any possible failure in that plant.

The technicians at Furnas, however, preclude that possibility, and go even further: "If Itaipu were in operation, the blackout would not have happened," claims engineer Paulo Amaral, superintendent of transmission projects at Furnas.

He explained that disconnections in series such as those which occurred in the southeast electrical system during April, occur when there are oscillations in the frequency and in the tension at which the power passes through the lines. He noted: "Turbogenerators of the size of those at Itaipu have a very great mechanical inertia. Hence, there are fewer fluctuations in the tension and frequency. Then, the risk of automatic disconnection is also far less."

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CSO: 3342/110

EEC BUDGET PROBLEMS, DISAGREEMENTS PROFILED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 6 May 84 p 2

[Article by Cino Colina: "Rifts in the European Economic Community"]

[Text] Sotto voce the word is getting around Western Europe: the European Economic Community (EEC) is withering away. Its ten members have gone from one failure to the next and from one summit to the next to surely confront more trouble ahead if each one keeps trying to pursue only narrow national interests at the expense of their partners. Those who felt 1983 was the most difficult year in EEC history were mistaken, because this year will be even more difficult.

The lack of agreement on key items such as a credible strategy for economic recovery, the size of budget payments and agricultural policies has led to chronic problems that could result in a total collapse.

Many expect a miracle at the upcoming June summit in France, or at least they hope for a way of riding out the storm of problems confronting the EEC.

British intransigence led to the failure of the Brussels summit called to find a solution to the organization's most pressing economic problems. The budget issue--which since 1980 has given rise to tremendous bickering--still remains unsolved with the division running 9-1 against the British.

At the Brussels meeting the British, who comprise the second largest contributor to the organization with 1200 million pounds, demanded a change in this state of affairs on a medium-term basis and a 75-percent cut in the British quota. Needless to say, for an organization on the brink of bankruptcy such a demand was completely unacceptable.

The Thatcher government told Parliament that it would not deliver the 150-million-dollar advance requested by the EEC. Some observers view this as London's response to the EEC decision to delay the return of the 1983 "check" for the British contribution to the budget.

The national consensus on this issue in Britain is that they receive the least per capita benefits of all members in spite of the fact that their GNP is sixth in the community while they and the FRG are the ones who contribute the most.

Almost simultaneously with the British refusal, EEC officials say that the United Kingdom is obliged to grant the advance. Actually the problem is that, due to financial difficulties, an invitation--not very polite given the current terms--was made to advance one month on tariffs.

Due to the British decision and the failure of the Brussels summit, EEC foreign ministers decided to freeze the return of 630 million dollars to the United Kingdom, which had been decided at the Stuttgart summit in June 1983.

There are experts who feel the EEC budget will dry up by September at the very latest due to spending on agricultural subsidies, that is, the so-called Green Europe which is giving the EEC so much trouble.

Nor was there any agreement on measures by agriculture ministers to reduce dairy production. Days later, they did agree to reduce dairy production in some countries along with other steps to reduce the agricultural budget that farmers described as "detrimental, difficult and in some cases inexcusable," according to the Spanish news agency EFE.

For example, once the agreement is in effect British dairy production must be cut immediately by ten percent, which means a return to what was produced three years ago, and 5000 British farmers will have to seek other employment within a year.

As is usually the case, the measure which experts consider a bail-out for the EEC and an inducement for "the ten" to be more flexible regarding the budget problem is viewed in a very different light by the small farmers who number in the thousands.

Protest actions by farmers including highway blockades and bombarding embassies with vegetables cannot be taken as premonitory.

The EEC is faced with internal problems in the midst of stagnant economies all over Europe and record unemployment levels which are greater than in the United States with the exception of Greece and Luxemburg (in December EEC members reported 12.5 million unemployed which amounts to the entire population of several EEC states unemployed). It continues to be as unsuccessful as it has been since 1980, trying to paper over the cracks in the facade ignoring the shaky foundations.

Spain and Portugal continue to wait for membership and when they join agricultural budgets will be further increased. It is clear that while joining may be difficult, leaving is even more so. This was shown by the experience of the autonomous Danish region of Greenland's decision to leave the EEC (in February 1982) over what were called problems of its own resources.

In an attempt to save the process of integration which is quickly falling apart, the EEC is studying the possibility of changing policies which date back to the organization's founding when there were only six members whose economy was based on steel and coal. Member states are trying to avoid being dragged down by old industries (there are scores of obsolete factories),

the financial crisis and tariff barriers set up by the United States and Japan.

EEC bankruptcy is just around the corner if members keep trying to figure out how much they will get for what they put in and planning to retire some cows and ruin the small farmers.

In spite of the resigned optimism of FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who said that "with 300 years of a disunited Europe we can't expect a solution in a generation," the ill is deep-rooted and the capitalist economic crisis may lead to the collapse of hopes for European unity.

CSO: 3200/28

CASA DE LAS AMERICAS PRESIDENT ATTACKS 'DISINFORMATION'

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 6 May 84 p 6

[Mariano Rodríguez, Casa de las Americas president, interviewed by Santiago Cardosa Arias; date, place not given]

[Text] Imperialism takes in the so-called dissidents and uses them in one way or another. I don't think their objective is cultural but disinformational.

Europe can act as a kind of sounding board but no longer decides our cultural values.

Maurice Bishop Prize for Caribbean writers.

Prestigious Latin American and Caribbean artists in Haydee Santamaria Our America Art Collection.

Casa de las Americas has met its goals but cultural work continues.



CLOSE TO Havana's Seafront Drive, Cuba's prestigious cultural institution Casa de las Americas has been immersed of late in events marking its 25th anniversary. Cultural figures from all over Latin America and the Caribbean have been in Havana for this jubilee occasion. Their presence can be seen as a stand in recognition of and identification with Casa's work of a quarter century. The broad celebratory program took in exhibits, book launchings, literary debates, music recitals and working sessions by the Standing Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of the Peoples of Our America.

In the midst of all this activity, *Granma Weekly Review* was able to interview Casa President and noted Cuban painter Mariano Rodríguez, known for his colorful roosters and more recently for his works on the Cuban people and their Revolution. Mariano Rodríguez

talked at length about his work as head of the institution and about culture in its many shapes and forms.

Our first question to Mariano was: What do you think of the disinformation campaign about Cuba and the way certain sectors of the European press have taken this up.

His reply came quickly: "The slander campaign against Cuba on the part of a number of intellectuals is the classic antisocialist, anti-revolutionary campaign, the kind of campaign based on the slightest pretext, because they never go to the root of things. Take, for instance, that pseudowriter — what's his name...? Valladares — who, I've now learned, considers himself a painter — which is absurd. We all saw how that campaign was deflated. All the talk about his being an invalid and arriving in Paris in a wheelchair, and everybody seeing him walk on his own two feet.

"It's been demonstrated that our real writers and artists have remained in Cuba. It is

our conviction that our real artists are here in Cuba and that they are going to shape the culture of the Revolution and socialism. They already are.

"Imperialism takes in the so-called dissidents and uses them in one way or another, because if a work of art had no value in Cuba, neither can it have elsewhere simply for being dissident.

"We start from the principle that the Revolution provides a basis for artistic development but does not provide talent. This is something the person must have. There should be an awareness of the fact that a dissident does not necessarily have talent. While they were in Cuba they didn't create anything of worth."

What's behind all this?

"I don't think imperialism's objective is cultural but disinformational, to disinform people. In fact, part of Casa's work has been to inform people about reality in Cuba and in the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean. I don't believe there is a single organization or institution outside the socialist camp that has succeeded in bringing together — the way Casa has — over 250 intellectuals from abroad. And this is what has happened with the Meeting of Intellectuals.

"Disinformation can serve its purpose at a certain moment. Nobody denies that. And they go on insisting. But we counter this with our information, for the battle is on."

EUROPE NO LONGER DECIDES OUR CULTURAL VALUES

Mariano Rodríguez paused to light a cigarette and replied to another of our questions:

"The other day, I was reading the Revolutionary Government Decree on the founding of Casa, signed by Fidel and Armando Hart, and I realized we had met our prescribed goals. In that Decree, dated April 28, 1959, it is stated that work must be undertaken to strengthen cultural relations with Latin America, to bring together Latin American culture which is one and a whole; and unity is stated as a principle, a goal to be reached.

"On rereading the text I realized that we were immersed in precisely what is prescribed there. Haydée Santamaría knew this from the outset, and she's to be credited for what the institution is today. We follow the path she blazed.

"Now, 25 years after, we are happy to say that all those objectives have been met. But life, the dynamics of life, of which culture forms a part, calls for constant creativity. New artistic and literary manifestations come into being and we are always on the alert. Seen from this angle, we cannot say we have fully accomplished all we set out to do. The work of Casa continues, and we will go on working according to how Latin American and Caribbean culture develops.

"Ours is a dynamic, new culture. It's so new that at the beginning we — and a number of Latin American intellectuals as well — were concerned about to what extent it would be accepted by Europe. But now, a vast culture has grown up in Latin America, in the novel, the plastic arts.... Europe can act as a kind of sounding board but no longer decides our cultural values as it did in past times in which I was involved as an artist.

"A feature of the dynamics of this development is a growth of popular culture, of culture per se, of what is manifest as culture, be it music, the novel, poetry or the plastic arts, which today have an influence in Europe, although Europeans might not want to recognize it."

Has the Cuban Revolution had its influence in this respect?

"Of course. First of all, the Cuban Revolution drew the attention of the whole world. Someone once said that Cuba's greatest poetic expression had been the Cuban Revolution. Many eyes were focused on the Cuban Revolution from the very beginning, it made its impact on today's world, and from there on attention began to be focused on Latin America and what it represented.

"I'm sure you remember that with the advent of the Revolution there was a boom in the literature of great writers such as Cortázar, García Márquez, Alejo Carpentier... who are a reflection of the new Latin American novel. At the same time, great painters such as Le Parc, Lam and others were making their mark in Europe.

"I think we have to look at the way in which culture is assimilated, at how we assimilate it in the way our great forerunners did. Bolívar was shaped by the Encyclopedists and the French Revolution. José Martí was a man of universal culture, but in various ways his culture looked essentially to Latin America.

"I believe that the Cuban Revolution brought with it a self-awareness, a looking at ourselves, at each of our peoples, the continent and its geography. The Revolution was a determining factor and from this grew the impetus of today's Latin America and the Caribbean.

"Nowadays even countries such as France and Spain concern themselves with Latin America and this is because of the Cuban Revolution, which gave rise to new cultural manifestations as well as social movements in Latin America."

MAURICE BISHOP PRIZE INSTITUTED

Casa de las Américas is known for its cultural work, especially the literary prize, but its activities are numerous, as seen from last week's coverage (GWR no. 18, April 29, 1984). One last question we had concerned Casa's future plans.

"As we announced recently," Mariño Rodríguez said, "as of 1985 Casa will be awarding the Maurice Bishop Prize for Caribbean writers. A Caribbean prize, it is designed to encourage all kinds of works, be they sociological, cultural.... It will be a prize for those who, in their work, take up the problematic of the Caribbean and an acknowledgement to the murdered leader.

"Casa will also be mounting the Our America Art Collection, to be named after Haydée Santamaría, because this was one of her major interests. Artwork donated by artists who have over time exhibited at Casa will be included in this collection. We have considerable amount of artwork. It's a large collection of about 6000 works.

"Art and literary criticism, sociological problems and indigenous culture are topics on the agenda for coming months and years," Mariano Rodríguez added. Wishing to detain him no longer, however, we moved to join Latin American friends of Casa celebrating what is clearly a prestigious 25th anniversary.

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EXCERPTS FROM ARMANDO HART'S NEW BEST SELLER

Havana CUBA INTERNACIONAL in Spanish Apr 84 pp 44-51

[The questions and answers in this interview are part of the book "Cambiar las reglas del juego" (Change the Rules of the Game) published by Editorial Letras Cubanas, 1983; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] Did prestigious intellectuals leave the country? What opinion do the "dissidents" merit? Did the Cuban Government isolate Jose Lezama Lima? Does the state pressure writers? Is there democracy on the island when there is only a single political party? Dr Armando Hart, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and minister of culture, answers those and other questions with arguments that give new bases to the debate on those topics.

[Question] Do officials of your ministry tell painters what they should paint or writers what they must write?

[Answer] I confess that when we came to the Ministry of Culture, we could not imagine what a ministry of culture was or what exactly its functions were. We could imagine and we did imagine what a ministry of education was since we had some experience with those functions. We could conceive and we did conceive of what a ministry of government was or a ministry of defense or a ministry of public health, a medical care system....Since culture is a creation of the people and their best talents, what function could a ministry of culture have? There was danger--and it is always necessary to be alert toward danger--that the functions of a ministry of culture would be confused with those of the artists or that it would interfere in artistic creation. That is a danger, especially because there is a spontaneous tendency in many people to impose their own aesthetic standards. We all have aesthetic tastes, we all have artistic preferences. However, if we--as officials of the Ministry of Culture--tried to set up our own aesthetic tastes as standards of conduct or norms to follow in certain artistic genres, we would eventually turn our ministry--and the development of culture, in general--into something demoniacal.

Someone once asked me what artistic genres we--as the ministry and in our specific position as minister--had more interest in promoting. We answered that the Cuban minister of culture does not have the authority to publicly and

officially express his own artistic tastes. He has the obligation to promote the development of all genres that are viable based on the cultural history of the country and the concrete possibilities of the country and to give that policy the broadest scope possible. We have told the officials this. We began fighting against the natural human tendency--from which the officials of the ministry are not exempt--to become standardizers of aesthetic forms or tastes. In order to prevent this, it was necessary to define the functions of the ministry and its relationship to the artistic and cultural movement as a whole.

Our first organized activity in the ministry which we have continued to carry out was to form a very sincere relationship with the artistic and literary movement. We began to call meetings with different artistic sectors so that they could express their ideas, their criteria, their opinions. These were very frank and open meetings on administrative aspects as well as artistic and cultural development. They were truly democratic meetings in which everyone participated. We limited ourselves to questioning and listening for two reasons: first, to learn about our artistic and intellectual movement; and second, to try to stimulate a creative climate in the country, one of the basic obligations of the ministry.

Nevertheless, it was necessary to differentiate the functions of the ministry from the tasks of the artists. We should reflect on this topic a little because it is a paramount cultural topic of our times. I think that when referring to art, it is necessary to do so with a double meaning: art as such, the specifics of artistic creation; and its conditions, a series of factors that are involved with artistic creation but are not in themselves artistic creation. I thought the ministry had to work around those aspects that are not artistic in themselves but favorably influence artistic creation. I believe that this is valid in every country in the world.

[Question] Do you think that the artists could have felt pressured by the state at any time?

[Answer] That depends on who directs state cultural work and with what concept. It is a real danger; that is, it can occur. There are always dangers in the application of a policy. On all the roads we take--especially those that are unknown in their concrete forms--different risks lie in wait for us. There are many variants and men do not always manage to find the best. Everything rests on deciding what is the most just policy and what capacity men have to correct their mistakes. I believe that cultural formation and education in their broadest sense are involved here. Narrow or bureaucratic ideas about handling cultural matters are symptoms of intellectual limitations and lack of confidence in the society we are constructing. It would be very dangerous if we had a bureaucratic view and tried to impose our individual criteria on school and university institutions--a symptom of ignorance and lack of culture. ...There has been a lot of talk about the dangers of bureaucratism in the socialist society. I believe the only solution to this problem is to develop a mass movement and guarantee that artistic creativity develops with the broadest and deepest freedom and ideological debate is based on this freedom.

We do not have a bureaucratic concept of culture but our enemies do. Those who accuse us are precisely the ones who bureaucratically control information and

cultural promotion in the capitalist world. They are the real bureaucrats. They are the ones who "brainwash" with their incessant--and at times overwhelming--propaganda. There are people who want to limit the function of the state in culture...merely to give this function to monopolies. To us, if the state is truly democratic and is based politically on the popular masses, it is a much more effective guarantee for creative freedom than the bureaucratic and technocratic mechanisms of the multinational cultural enterprises, the modern monopolistic enterprises that control the so-called culture industry.

Under the conditions of modern society, it is impossible to resolve the innumerable practical problems that exist if there is not someone in the state sphere representing that entire movement. We already said that, in our opinion, the state coordinates, promotes, encourages. We are also creating institutions that function autonomously....We cannot bureaucratically direct the mass movement--let us say, in the universities--because the student organizations, the student movement do that work, direct that work. What we do is support them, help them, encourage them in the accomplishment of their work. In reality, we promote a greater number of options so that they can do their work more effectively.

The socialist state is accused of creating a powerful bureaucratic and technocratic mechanism. However, I repeat: what we have done is replace the inefficient bureaucratic mechanism that the culture enterprises and merchants had, not to mention the so-called official institutions. I suggest serious reflection on the domination by the bureaucratic and technocratic mechanism of the large multinational information enterprises which control propaganda and news and are not part of the state bureaucratic mechanism but, in fact, take over its functions. These multinational information enterprises have a very powerful bureaucratic and technocratic mechanism and it is obvious that they are conditioning, weakening and impeding the cultural development of many peoples.

Best with the Revolution

[Question] What is your opinion about the campaign in some European countries concerning Mr Armando Valladares?

[Answer] This man was condemned for participating in the organization of sabotage and terrorist attacks, as can be verified by the press of that time. Then they said that he was a paralytic. I can assure you that this was a lie. He was not a paralytic and the proof is that he walked to the airport. He was not a paralytic and he was not a Cuban intellectual. He could have been a dissenting intellectual--as is said in the game, a "dissident"--but he was not. Now we should reflect on this "case" which was fabricated from start to finish since he was neither a paralytic nor an intellectual. It is noteworthy that the top European bourgeoisie has had to resort to a terrorist, a person convicted of sabotage, to fabricate an anticommunist scandal through the main propaganda and publicity media.

...What the top bourgeoisie is trying to do with its game--the game of "dissidents"--should concern everyone. It tries to hide two things: the formidable movement that is growing in the countries that have chosen independence; and

the evidence that there are not just one, two or three cases of dissenters in capitalist countries. They include the best of the intellectual movement, the majority of the independent intellectuals and artists....We can begin with Chaplin and Picasso and end with Vallejo and Neruda among the deceased and the living...would be impossible to list. There are thousands who disagree with imperialism. There will always be more because the bourgeoisie has little to offer the peoples and culture.

However, what is it really trying to do? I believe this is more profound than it seems and I think it should concern the peoples of Western Europe where that propaganda is mainly focused. It is trying to discredit socialism and all those who have progressive ideas. It wants to stop the advance of progressive ideas in Europe and, by extension, in the rest of the world because progressive ideas have been advancing in Europe. This is the reactionary counter-offensive which is disguised in many ways.

I would advise the friends of Cuba, the friends of socialism and the progressive and honest intellectuals to look for signs of cultural tyranny--and unmask them--in the bureaucratic and technocratic mechanisms of the large monopolistic enterprises before looking elsewhere for them.

[Question] Have prestigious intellectuals or artists abandoned the revolution?

[Answer] Well, almost 25 years have passed since the triumph of the revolution and we can say that the best of the Cuban intellectual and artistic movement died with the revolution or lives today with the revolution. It would suffice to name Fernando Ortiz, Navarro Luna, Ramiro Guerra, Emilio Roig, Juan Marinello, Alejo Carpentier, Jose Lezama Lima, Raul Roa...or Chacon y Calvo, Serpa, Perez de la Riva, Lazo, Camila Henriquez Urena--Cuban by adoption--Mirta Aguirre, Pinera...or artists Amelia Pelaez, Wifredo Lam, Acosta Leon, Servando Cabrera Moreno...or our great composers and performers from Gonzalo Roig and Benny More to Adolfo Guzman, Sindo Garay, Felix B. Caignet, Bola de Nieve.... In short, militants or not, believers or atheists, followers of the most diverse literary and artistic currents, all died with the revolution, with their people--or in the case of maestro Lecuona, without denying them, without joining the enemies of the revolution and the people. Today their works are studied, publicized and continue growing....There are so many who live with the revolution today that it would be senseless to list all of them. Is it necessary to name Nicolas Guillen, Alicia Alonso, Mariano or Portocarrero? Or Pedroso, Tallet, Feijoo, Portuondo, Onelio, Eliseo, Dora Alonso, Pita, Orta, Augier, Soler Puig, Cintio, Retamar, Moreno Friginals...? And artists like Rita Longa or movie actors like Santiago Alvarez and Gutierrez Alea or theater actors like Sergio Corrieri and Raquel Revuelta...and so many other poets, narrators, critics, essayists, painters, dancers, composers, actors, performers...? And those who have been recognized internationally in their youth like Leo Brouwer, Silvio Rodriguez and Pablo Milanes, Humberto Solas, Jorge Luis Prats, Tomas Sanchez, Miguel Barnet...? Is it necessary to name people like Jose Juan Arrom who has not lost his Cubanness or his integrity in spite of the years he has spent outside Cuba--in the United States, to be exact--now professor emeritus at Yale University? Or Marcelo Pogolotti, one of the founders of our plastic arts who has lived in Mexico for many years?

I would rather not make lists. There is always the risk of omitting someone. As I already said, the minister of culture does not have the authority to establish intellectual hierarchies or express aesthetic tastes or preferences. I think that simple list suffices to demonstrate that the revolution has had and continues to have the best literary and artistic talents of our people. I would like to point out another aspect that should be remembered even in the midst of the ideological struggle. Some people who have left the country and are now bitter enemies of the revolution came from leftist sectors or allegedly leftist sectors. They were not originally rightists. We can respect a rightist who, consequently, takes rightist positions. We can respect him even though we have deep ideological and class conflicts with him. We can even recognize that he is an honest person since he sincerely believes in his ideas and upholds them. In other words, he is a wholehearted reactionary. However, those people who left our country and said they were leftists are simply turncoats, deserters of an idea. They shared a cause. They were in Cuba for a long time--some even directed different cultural institutions--and then they deserted and betrayed their ideas and the confidence that had been placed in them. This means they are traitors. If I were to give advice to the right, I would tell it to be very careful with traitors. One can respect an ideological enemy--without ignoring the deep conflicts--but one has to mistrust and, in our case, despise traitors, those who have never been consistent defenders of an idea. They were a minority in Cuba and their artistic or literary credentials are limited, debatable or nonexistent.

[Question] Some people say that Jose Lezama Lima, for example, was excluded and isolated. What can you tell us about that?

[Answer] The deserters do not forgive those who did not desert. They attack Lezama, pretending that they defend him. They did not need those subterfuges before. It should be known that those who make those accusations today published insulting articles about Lezama when they were in Cuba. The Cuban Marxists were the ones who came to Lezama's defense. We have documentary proof of that.

The Cuban communists said that Lezama was not a communist--he was actually a Catholic--but the important thing was knowing whether Lezama was with the revolution or not. In other words, the Cuban Marxists used the press to counter those extremists. The latter are the ones who now scream from Europe that we were inconsistent toward Lezama. There are documents, the press of the time, to show that they attacked Lezama with a series of insults and the Cuban Marxists, the Cuban communists defended Lezama from the pages of their own press organs. They left it clear that what was important was not Lezama's philosophy but his literary work--the fact that he was a great poet--and his political position of following the revolution. I explain this to reveal the low moral quality of those people, those brand-new defenders of their victims. They are simply farcical.

Lezama represents a time of grave crisis in the Cuban intellectual movement--that is, the 1940's and 1950's--when middle sectors of the population and many intellectuals who did not hold progressive political positions were overwhelmed by the crisis and could not find a solution. However, Lezama did not hold

Marxist or radical positions and did not find a solution to the situation in the decades before the victory but he was a profound Cuban, a great connoisseur of the most genuine aspects of national culture. His tragedy consisted precisely in loving what was Cuban in art and not glimpsing a historic solution for the development of Cuban art. He revealed his Cubanness in an unusual and passionate way. He also demonstrated the drama of art--or the artist--during a time of frustration that had no other solution than the revolution. When the revolution triumphed, Lezama--as a genuine Cuban--immediately followed it. This is what the extremists who attacked him--and still attack him--do not say. It is no coincidence that they are the opportunists who later deserted the revolution. Therein lies the essence of the extremist turned deserter. Lenin warned: /Scratch the skin of an extremist and you will find an opportunist underneath/.

We Marxist-Leninists make a more in-depth and, consequently, more humane analysis of these problems. Honest and genuinely cultured men--if they have roots in the national culture like Lezama--are with the revolution. They do not build walls between them and the communists. Don't think that there is a pact, an arrangement. The truly radical positions are those that lead us to the most consistent and in-depth analyses. Lezama was not a communist and many others are not. Lezama was a Catholic but he deserves the honor of being part of the cultural history of the Cuban Revolution. This is not what the extremists of yesterday and the deserters of today wanted but it was what Lezama achieved with his position and his work and what we communists of yesterday and today have achieved.

To us, that is a position of principles. We have also maintained this position with other esteemed intellectuals who have been honored by the revolution. It does not just involve honest men with different philosophical ideas from ours. It also involves those intellectuals and artists who lived outside the country even before the revolution and could have been forgotten or passed over. I have already named two of them. Now I add another example: our good comrade Wifredo Lam. Lam lived outside Cuba years before the revolution. He felt that there was no climate for his art in Cuba. We approached Lam because we admired his work. If we had a bureaucratic policy toward art, artists of Lam's quality would not have asked, as he did, that their remains be buried in Cuba. Lam's remains were brought to Cuba at his request; he arranged that.

If we did not follow a consistent policy in art, consistent with the development of our culture, a writer of the stature of Carpentier would not have been a deputy to the National People's Government Assembly. It is good to know that Carpentier even said that this was the greatest honor he had ever received. There were men like Ramiro Guerra in Cuba. He was not a Marxist but he was a great historian, a great researcher of history. He did it with scientific criteria. I remember that someone once said something very eloquent: Ramiro Guerra could not write the history of Cuba from the Marxist perspective but neither could it be written from the Marxist viewpoint without studying the work of Ramiro Guerra first.

There were men like Fernando Ortiz, a researcher of our African roots and author of books for which he deserves a monument, particularly the one in

which he demonstrates what he called the /hoax of the races/--that is, the fallacy of racist classifications. He was one of the top people in anthropology, ethnology and sociological research on the Cuban nationality.

There were men like Emilio Roig de Leuchsenring, a great leftist intellectual. His contribution to knowledge about the history of Cuba and the historical roots of our anti-imperialism is notable. The grand bourgeoisie and its ideologists abroad do not talk much about him, precisely because he was a profound anti-imperialist linked to the most important ideas of his time. According to the right, Emilio Roig lacks intellectual value. However, to us he is an indispensable figure. Is this person well known abroad? If not, it is due to monopolistic control of the media to promote and spread culture and the cultural system dominated by the monopolies or answering to spurious interests.

I could also talk about the development of our plastic arts, the problems there have been in the development of plastic arts in Cuba, greatly influenced by the international modern art movement. Earlier there was more academican painting in Cuba that could scarcely be called /Cuban/. Beginning in the 1920's, new painters like Victor Manuel, Carlos Henriquez and Marcelo Pogolotti renewed our plastic arts--influenced by the trends in modern art--and that renewal has resulted in a painting movement that became known as the Havana School. Its most notable representatives were still producing when the revolution triumphed. We had a generous attitude toward this movement and we endorse it as one of the authentic roots of the Cuban arts movement. In other words, we have respected and we will continue to respect all the cultural conquests of our people without refusing to seek the new and encourage the new, precisely because we do not renounce that principle.

Art is not created outside the social environment. A Cuban doctor can be a great doctor in New York. Things are not as simple in art. Great art usually has deep popular and social roots. It feeds from the experiences of the people. Anyone who breaks with those experiences, interrupts his contact with those sources runs the risk of becoming sterile or producing only decorative art. The few writers and artists in Cuba who deserted did not manage to achieve the quality of those whom I have named. That is not the image spread abroad. Nothing of what I have said is published in the large newspapers or publicized by the large monopolistic consortia....That reveals a political position, naturally, and a deterioration, a cultural decadence of the top bourgeoisie. It descends from the peaks of the past century--Balzac is the requisite example--and from the peaks of this century to the questionable "prominences" of today, elevated by the publicity racket. The culture of the peoples of the West was not built and was not woven with a publicity racket or with trivial discussions or gossip. The culture of these peoples was woven with truth, with artistic search and scientific research, with the affirmation of the humanist spirit. There is not as much effort now; the rules of the game are much simpler. The information and publishing monopolies have established those rules based, in general, on publicity, on nonliterary and nonartistic values. They have decided that the answer lies in discussing "cases." They look for two, three, five "cases," the required dice for the game. They roll them on the international table and announce that they can be discussed. I do not shirk from discussion of those "cases" but I think we must change the rules

of the game. If we are for culture, we /must/ change the rules of the game. Of course, I want to discuss with the masters, not the dogs. I want to discuss this in depth to show how the top bourgeoisie has deteriorated and decayed culturally. To start with, it wants to hide the fact that the best of the intellectuals of the West are progressive and sympathize with leftist ideas. It refrains from calling them "dissidents." I challenge it to make a list of those who disagree with the capitalist system, the intellectuals and artists from its own countries who dissent. These names would fill a telephone book.

Democracy with a Single Party?

[Question] What is your concept of freedom?

[Answer] To start with, it is a different concept from the one our enemies have. We aspire to maximum freedom. At times we have had to adopt harsh measures because of harassment, the war to which we have been subjected by imperialism. We have fought and we fight that war against imperialism. This means that we live in a constant state of tension, fighting to survive as a people in revolution against an implacable and very powerful enemy. Under these conditions, to speak of /freedom/ in the abstract would be meaningless. I believe that freedom does not consist merely in voting. The 10 or 11 million unemployed workers in the United States now are voters although the majority do not vote, according to statistics. However, I do not believe that they are really free because a man without work--unless he is a hermit--can hardly be considered a free man.

There are no unemployed workers in Cuba. I think that this is a guarantee of freedom and everyone has it. I think the millions of people who have had access to education in Cuba have exercised a right that they did not have before. That is also freedom; that is also an inalienable human right. It seems to me that the millions of people who receive free medical care exercise and enjoy a right which makes them freer. Marti said that to be free, you had to be cultured. Now 50 million books are published per year in Cuba, more than 5 books per person....In 1958 there were 15,000 or 16,000 university students and...today there are 200,000. In my opinion, that is also a freedom and that--education, culture--is an inseparable part of human rights.

In the last 6 months, I have held frequent meetings with artists and intellectuals from different fields--theater, movies, music....We have held many meetings in which they freely express their opinions and their problems and I have to answer them. I do that constantly as a habit of government. They present theoretical, methodological and organizational problems to me or very concrete cases like, for example, the writer who asks for increased circulation of his books....Well, all writers hope to see increased circulation of their books, naturally. I talk, I discuss with the intellectuals, artists, university students....This is not only done in the Ministry of Culture. The officials of the Ministry of the Sugar Industry, for example, have to do the same with the workers in their branch.

I was party secretary in the old province of Oriente, a large territory that was later divided into five provinces....I went to the sugar mills and met with

the workers. I listened to their concerns and their arguments. We discussed and sought explanations and solutions together....This is a daily practice in Cuba. It is a practice that Fidel taught us. He constantly visits places and talks with the people. We are far from being overconfident, believing that we have solved everything. We still have major problems and, of course, new ones arise, difficulties that must be faced. Some are caused by the blockade and the fluctuation of sugar prices; others come from our foreign debt and still others are caused by our inadequacies and administrative weaknesses. In the midst of those problems--and in spite of being a country in constant danger of aggression--for the immense majority of the people, there has never been more freedom in Cuba than the freedom they enjoy today.

[Question] Is democracy possible with a single party?

[Answer] That is an interesting question but it cannot be answered without knowing the nature and functioning of our system. There is a single party in Cuba. That does not mean that this invariably occurs under socialism. There are socialist countries that have several parties. In our case the existence of a single party is due to historic reasons. If the forces on which the revolution was supported and those that were grouped in the bourgeois parties before the revolutionary victory are studied, it will be seen, for example, that there was no socialist party in Cuba like those in Europe. There was never a socialist party of that type in Cuba. At the beginning of the century, a socialist party was founded but it soon disappeared. Later the Communist Party was created with a Marxist-Leninist formation. It remained in existence under one name or another until after the triumph of the revolution. Then its forces merged with those of the 26 July Movement and the Revolutionary Directorate which had fought against the Batista tyranny. The parties in Cuba before the revolution--except the Communist Party, of course--were linked to the bourgeoisie or **compromised** in some way with it. They were completely discredited after the fight against the tyranny. Only one had a profound popular nature and included progressive forces in it but its leadership did not respond to the aspirations of the base. Later, in the first years of the victory, the 26 July Movement, the Popular Socialist Party and the Revolutionary Directorate took over leadership of the process and the most honest leaders of the bourgeois democratic parties joined them. The enemies of the process joined the counterrevolution or left the country. Those three organizations--the Revolutionary Directorate which had a student origin, the Popular Socialist Party which was the Marxist-Leninist party that had existed in Cuba since 1925 and the 26 July Movement--united around Marxist-Leninist ideology under Fidel's leadership and merged into a single party. If it were obligatory to have partisan pluralism, we would have to invent parties because they did not exist with a broad social base historically. Essentially, the immense majority of the members of the old bourgeois parties--I am referring to the members of the base, not the leadership--radicalized during the armed struggle and joined Fidel, the revolution and the new communist party, thus forming a united bloc in the fight against imperialism. That unity was a necessity of combat itself; without it, there was no chance for victory.

Elections are held every 5 years in Cuba. I am going to explain the process followed. The citizens meet in their blocks where they live, convoked by the

mass organizations. Without direct guidelines from the party or anyone, they freely and spontaneously nominate candidates for municipal delegates. Then a joint committee is formed by all the mass organizations and, from the candidates nominated in the blocks, people are nominated for the assembly. In other words, a slate is drawn up for the municipal assembly. Actually, 25 percent more candidates are nominated than will be elected. If 10 are to be elected, 13 to 15 candidates are nominated. We will not have different parties but we do have different candidates. Once elected, the municipal delegates form a committee within the municipal assembly itself and that committee follows the same procedure. Among the candidates nominated, it nominates some as deputies to the national assembly--25 percent more than have to be elected--and then holds the election. I, for example, am a deputy for Santiago de Cuba. I had to appear on a slate with 23 or 24 other candidates and I am one of the 17 or 18 elected through secret vote. This is the institutional process; the party organization is similar. What I have described is one of the electoral mechanisms of socialist democracy which I consider the highest form of democracy.

There are many other organizations in our society: the unions, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Federation of Cuban Women, the student federations at the intermediate and university levels, etc. They follow similar procedures and elect their respective delegates to each congress--congresses that are held every 5 years--with all the rules of democracy and all the mechanisms historically recognized as democratic including the secret vote.

Actually, some of us go through a double process, the party and the state process. We must go through that process to be candidates and to be elected to the higher levels of the party and the state.

Production assemblies are held periodically in the factories and in all the work centers. The workers analyze and discuss their plans and internal problems without any restrictions. That is also democracy.

[Question] Recently we commemorated the centennial of the death of Marx. A "single model" is mentioned. What do you think about that?

[Answer] The answer could be very long but I will try to summarize my opinion on the matter. The first thing I should say is that the expression "single model" has an obvious anti-Marxist and anti-Leninist connotation. I am going to give a historic example. Lenin was Marx' most outstanding disciple and applied a model that Marx did not develop. Marx conceived of the process of the socialist revolution basically in developed countries, especially the United Kingdom, Germany and France. He conceived of it for the developed countries, with a theoretical concept adapted to the developed countries. Later capitalism went through its imperialist phase. Lenin applied Marxism to the Russian society of his time which was different from the one Marx had analyzed so deeply. If Lenin had dogmatically followed Marx' texts, he would not have been Marxist. Lenin was Marxist because he sought the meaning, the essence of Marx' statements.

We should analyze two aspects in Marx and Lenin. One is the theoretical and scientific concept that led Lenin to define Marxism as a guide for action. That

definition in itself is an antidogmatic expression. Action implies alternatives, a diversity of variants, a diversity of facets. No one, for example, could have imagined that, under Cuba's conditions, there would be an action--in this case, armed struggle--that would lead to socialism the way it happened.

We should not ask anti-Marxist questions for the centennial of the death of Marx. I would rather ask something else. At Marx' burial, Engels gave a moving speech. He said that the name of Marx would last throughout the centuries. What philosophical, theoretical and political figure of the 19th century has greater political force after 100 years than Karl Marx or Lenin who was also born in the 19th century? It is necessary to analyze that phenomenon. There is no other European figure in philosophy or action who has had such a long effect, such profound currency as Marx or Lenin.

Marx continues alive and active in every part of the planet today and so does Lenin. They have helped change the course of history and the political and social physiognomy of the modern world. Today any man halfway educated can be Marxist or anti-Marxist but he cannot be ignorant of Marx. Mr Reagan recently said that it was necessary to end the Leninist revolution but the truth is that, after a century, the figure of Marx and the strength of Marxism continue to grow...and will continue to grow even when very few remember who that man named Reagan was.

What happens is that these are new times and it is necessary to make changes and adjustments. The phenomena that occurred in Lenin's time do not occur today or do not occur in the same way. It is necessary, therefore, to adjust and change. We hold this conviction: for those adjustments and changes to be really new, they must be supported on the essential ideas of Marx. Anyone who aspires to the new would do well to ask what those essential ideas are. He would do well to study the problem theoretically, to figure out what is basic not only in Marx' statements but also in Lenin's. For us Cubans, Marxism-Leninism is synonymous with antidogmatism. It is necessary to keep in mind that Marxism started as a science and science is, by definition, antidogmatic. Marxism is the science of society. No social scientist would dare condense societies into a single "model." No revolution has been the same as the previous one nor has responded to predetermined schemes. The Russian Revolution was one thing, the Chinese another, the Vietnamese another, the Cuban another. Each one has its characteristic features, its variants. There will always be multiple alternatives and the revolution will always present a diversity of variants. There is one thing that remains unchanging: the scientific nature of Marxism, its nature as a true social science and its ability to serve as a guide for action. That continues in effect a century after the death of Marx. In fact, his ideas continue to be the most important political and philosophical force in the present world. The imperialists, bewildered or simply misinformed, ask: /Why are so many people in the world asking questions and finding answers because of a 19th-century economist and philosopher who was born in 1818 and died in 1883? Why does that happen everywhere?/ I think there is only one answer: the effectiveness of his ideas. Have mistakes, errors been committed in the name of those ideas? Of course. Are there variants not foreseen by the theory? Of course! But the truths discovered by Marx opened the way to the solution of many problems for the world.

There are no single models. Each time new variants will be presented. What must not be forgotten is that the essential part of the Marxist and Leninist theories--which qualifies us to call them a science of society and a philosophy of man and history--continues in effect. What other social and political philosophy remains alive, under the name of its author, with the same force that Marxism has today? Engels was not wrong when he said 100 years ago that the name of Marx--and, with it, his work--would last throughout the centuries.

[Question] In your opinion, what is the strength of the Cuban Revolution based on?

[Answer] I have the impression that this which is so clear to the Cubans requires some explanation abroad. I will be brief. In Cuba the cry of independence was heard in 1868. In order to explain that this was not a precipitous act but had deep roots, one patriot wrote: /This revolution has been germinating in our hearts for half a century./ Therefore, by 1968 we could say that this revolution had been fought in the fields and cities of Cuba for an entire century and had been germinating in our hearts for a century and a half. Several generations of patriots fought and gave their lives for the Cuban Revolution--it has been called that since 1868. When this revolution triumphed at the end of 1959, the entire people felt like Marti did when he landed in Cuba: they had achieved their /complete nature/. In other words, they felt their own strength accumulated during almost a century of combat. That is the primary basis of the strength of the Cuban Revolution: its historic necessity and the strength of the people. Also this time it was a revolution on its highest historical level, a socialist revolution without concessions or regressions. When the Agrarian Reform Law was promulgated in 1959, when the enterprises were nationalized in 1960 and when the mercenary invasion organized by the CIA was defeated in 1961, it became manifest that this time the revolution in Cuba was going to be a revolution and was going to be /definitively/ Cuban.

The one who touched those accumulated forces under very difficult circumstances and set them in action--with the attack on Moncada barracks in 1953--was Fidel Castro. Fidel led the armed struggle against the Batista tyranny. Since 1959 he has led the resistance of our people against the imperialist aggressions and has led the effort to construct a new society. His historic, political and moral authority is recognized by all the people in Cuba and many peoples outside of Cuba. Therefore, the strength of the Cuban Revolution rests also on the confidence and the identification of the people with Fidel and on the unity forged around him during these 30 years of struggle. This is a historic truth. We Marxists recognize the role of the individual in history to the degree that those individuals have been capable of mobilizing the aspirations and forces latent in the people.

Our working class, our peasantry, our students, the immense majority of our people are also identified and united around the party and its top leaders whose revolutionary background also gives them unquestionable political and moral authority. That authority is consolidated day after day by the constant link between the leaders and the masses--at all levels. This constitutes the daily strength of the revolution and the guarantee of its permanence.

JORGE DISCUSSES INESPRE POLICY, PLANNED STRIKE

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 9 May 84 p 10

[Text of speech given by President Salvador Jorge Blanco from the National Palace on 8 May]

[Text] In view of the news item in yesterday's evening editions of the press to the effect that several labor unions plan to call a general strike throughout the country as of tomorrow, I feel that it is my duty as chief of state and president of all Dominicans to address the nation once again.

I would like to point out, first of all, that this call for an adventurist strike at this difficult time for the country is devoid of any intention of meeting demands and is totally lacking in good judgment.

In fact, at this time it is inconceivable to call a general strike that could bring the country once again to the brink of social chaos, new outbreaks of violence and disturbances, precisely at a time when the government and much of the private sector are making every effort to take measures that will alleviate the plight of the working classes and the underprivileged sectors of our population.

Just a few days ago I announced a series of reform measures designed to strengthen the working class and ensure its progress; and the wage raise is already practically a fact. In addition, I set forth the main points of a food supply policy that will benefit the vast majority of the population, as well as other policies aimed at ensuring low-cost medical supplies.

Within the framework of the actions we have authorized and that are being enforced unswervingly by the Secretariat of State for Public Health and Social Assistance, and the National Institute of Price Stabilization (INESPRE), large quantities of basic medicines are being imported, under their generic names, utilizing the services and support of international health agencies. We have authorized the initial importation of basic medication through INESPRE, taking advantage of the cooperative service of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

This first shipment of medicines, which will be followed by others, will be distributed immediately in each of the hospitals and clinics of the Secretariat of State for Public Health and Social Security. INESPRE will use part of this first shipment to begin immediately the operation of the People's Pharmacies program, selling these medications at very low prices. For this vital social program, INESPRE will receive continuing specialized assistance from the Secretariat of State for Public Health, without excluding the social importance of commercial pharmacies, under the management of the private sector.

This measure completes the official actions taken to benefit the sectors involved in the marketing of essential medications, and it assures the nation that the prices paid by the public will be at least 50 percent below the prices that used to prevail on the market. These prices are also below those seen in this country over the last 5 or 10 years. Soon we will meet with the leaders of the Association of Pharmaceutical Product Representatives and Agents in a spirit of respect and conciliation.

We are confident that these measures will return the important medication market to normalcy once and for all, on the basis of pricing, eliminating distortionate price hikes, short-term speculation and artificial shortages, without jeopardizing the health of the Dominican people. These are sufficient reasons for prompting the National Concentration Government to participate directly and permanently in the marketing of essential medicines, the only guarantee that they will be sold to the Dominican public at reasonable prices. Only in this way can the family budget of low- and middle-income people allow for such purchases, considering the sacrifices we all must make during these economic and social times, as the Dominican people shape their destiny.

In my last message to the people, on the occasion of International Labor Day, I indicated that our dramatic national plight had translated into tragedies that are very painful to us, and will never again be repeated. I also stated that that day was a propitious occasion to reflect on and reaffirm our commitment to finding solutions to the problems that have hit our population the hardest.

In keeping with that sentiment, and convinced that the planned general strike has no grounds in terms of objective labor or social demands, but is rather a means whose only objective is of a political nature, representing an attack on the functioning of democratic institutions and the social order of our country, the government over which I preside as a result of the express desire of the Dominican people, is taking the necessary steps to deter such a move, in strict compliance with the law. Thus, we hope that the political and labor groups that are organizing this rash strike will reconsider, regroup and adopt an attitude of understanding in keeping with the present circumstances.

These moves toward a strike, with their destabilizing effects in the social realm, primarily affect the conduct of citizens by artificially creating a collective mentality of insecurity and uncertainty. The concrete effects can be seen in the drastic decline in productive activity in both the public and private sectors.

Other negative consequences are reflected directly in the government as administrator of the common good, translated into the paralyzation of the mechanisms for collecting fiscal revenues. Thus, the scope of services that are provided to the neediest citizens in the areas of health, education, transportation, social security and others, is severely limited.

It is well to remind the nation that as a result of the violence that took place at the end of last April, communication channels were opened up for a dialog with the representatives of the labor unions, at the level of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, the legislative chambers and even the executive branch; it was agreed that a meeting would be held each month to discuss matters related to the demands the labor sector has been presenting.

As a result of these efforts, undertaken in the context of analyzing the country's possibilities, the Senate of the Republic has already supported a bill to raise the wage scale for the lowest paid workers of the public and private sectors. This should be interpreted as a decision to balance labor's demands on the one hand, and the absorptive capacity of private business and the government, on the other hand.

The National Concentration Government, ever aware of its essentially democratic and humanistic orientation, has opted to manage this overwhelming crisis by choosing the path of correcting the chronic imbalances in our economy, promoting what is understood to be the road toward the real and permanent solutions to our problems.

The worldwide crisis, stemming from the rise in oil prices and the subsequent deterioration of the prices of our exports, drastically cut back the resources available to the government and thus made it impossible to continue a subsistence economy. We were then forced to deploy the internal energies of the entire nation--all sectors together--toward production, without sacrificing government social assistance programs. Greater production in all areas of the economy is our true salvation, and this urgent task requires the highest commitment from all sectors. The oil crisis is so severe that Mexico, an oil producing nation which provides us with part of our petroleum, has just raised its prices for this product.

At this juncture, the great, truly patriotic objective should be to contribute to the strengthening of an institutional order that is the fruit of the tenacious struggle of the Dominican people over the past decades, an institutional order that benefits all of us politically, socially and economically, an institutional order whose weakening would benefit only a small minority that does not believe and has never believed in the democratic system.

I am well aware of the severe economic situation that afflicts us, and in that regard it is enough for me to recall the speech I gave on 16 August 1982. For me that was a veritable profession of faith on the occasion of my inauguration as chief of state.

The times we face require above all wisdom, patience and a common effort to create a national consensus in the application of the measures we are taking,

and in the formulation of new measures that we will continue to adopt in the near future.

We are pleased to be able to state that in our strategy and actions aimed at overcoming the current crisis and meeting the just and urgent aspirations of our underprivileged classes in terms of their basic food and health needs, we can count on the decisive and solid support of our Dominican Revolutionary Party and other important sectors of national life. In this regard, we invite all national political forces that are struggling to ensure the survival of the democratic system as the only one capable of guaranteeing development and social justice in our society, to join in this patriotic effort and rise above partisan struggling, for a single cause: national interests.

I would like to conclude by repeating, in my capacity as constitutional president of the republic and supreme commander of the Armed Forces and the National Police, that political stability and institutional order in the nation are fully guaranteed, and that no outbreak of social violence could alter that fact.

We are concerned, however, about the wake of mourning and pain that almost always follows assaults on the public order, and it is for this reason that our government and our party, today more united than ever, are undertaking a joint effort of a purely preventive nature to avoid further tragic events. Any such mishaps would be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the organizers of the strike.

Our preventive action is aimed at discouraging the organizers of that planned general strike, and above all at making the people aware of the situation so that they will not be taken in by individuals who have never believed in peace, liberty and democracy for the Dominican Republic, as strongly upheld by the armed forces and the National Police, the preservers not only of our sovereignty but also of the national public order.

We exhort the entire nation to understand that this is a time for dialog, not confrontation; for solidarity, not antagonism; for unity, not division.

I appeal, finally, to all responsible political leaders in the country to contribute with conviction and vigor to the strengthening of our democratic system, conscious that the country is undergoing an economic crisis whose origin, magnitude and nature transcend mere government action, for the most part, and therefore require the devotion, enthusiasm and cooperation of all Dominicans. This cooperation, now more than ever, means productive labor. I invite the whole populace to make common cause with the government's efforts along the permanent road to peace and work.

Salvador Jorge Blanco
National Palace
8 May 1984

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NEW TAX, MINIMUM WAGE LAWS PASSED

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 12 May 84 pp 1, 11

[Article by Maximo Manuel Perez]

[Text] President Salvador Jorge Blanco yesterday promulgated the law raising wages for private and public employees, along with five tax laws that will help underwrite those raises.

This legislation includes a law modifying the imported goods tax that was levied under Law 369 of 1972; one raising the tax on alcoholic beverages; one modifying the tax on commercial and industrial patents, and one setting at 25 percent the presumption of benefits provided by insurance companies.

According to Senate estimates, the new laws will generate some 50 million pesos per year for the treasury, and it is understood that this will enable the government to implement wage raises for some 165,000 employees, including 31,963 lycee and public school teachers.

The law hikes the minimum wage for civil servants to RD \$175.00 per month, and raises by 10 percent the wage of those earning up to RD \$300.00.

This measure, passed in an emergency session last week by the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, stipulates the following:

Article 1. All workers, including rural workers used in agriculture and livestock activities as well as workers whose services are rendered in industrial, commercial, mining, tourist or any other type of activity where there are labor-management relations, no matter what the nature of their contracts and the form of their remuneration, and the employees of the public administration and of the autonomous agencies and entities of the state, shall be paid the minimum wages or salaries and wage contributions detailed below:

1. Workers whose services are utilized in industrial, commercial, mining, tourist or any other type of activity where there are labor-management relations, as well as employees of the public administration and of the autonomous agencies and entities of the state, shall be governed by the following:

a) The employees who are paid by the hour, the week, every 2 weeks or by the month shall earn a wage or salary computed on the basis of a monthly minimum of RD \$175.00 (one hundred seventy-five gold pesos);

b) The wages or salaries which, as of the passage of this law, exceed RD \$175.00 (one hundred seventy-five gold pesos) per month but do not exceed RD \$300.00 (three hundred gold pesos) per month, shall be raised by 10 (ten) percent; and

c) The wages or salaries which, as of the passage of this law, exceed RD \$300.00 (three hundred gold pesos) per month but do not exceed RD \$330.00 (three hundred thirty gold pesos) per month, shall be raised to RD \$330.00 (three hundred thirty gold pesos) per month.

2. The rural workers who are utilized in any agriculture or livestock activity, including among others weeders, milkers and livestock laborers and other similar occupations, shall earn the minimum wage or salary of RD \$5.00 (five gold pesos) per 8-hour workday. This minimum wage shall increase or decrease proportionally when the workday covers a period greater or lesser than eight (8) hours daily.

Paragraph I. However, the business firms that as of the date of this law are paying their employees wages above that stipulated in this law shall maintain those wages or salaries without prejudice to the benefits that may result from future collective bargaining for working condition agreements, and any resolutions passed by the National Committee on Wages for each economic activity, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Labor Code and the laws which complete and modify the same.

Paragraph II. In addition, future wage increases called for or set forth in current collective working condition contracts shall be taken into consideration to be deducted from the increases provided for in this law.

Paragraph III. In contracts for work at a piece rate or per unit of work, the minimum wages set forth in this law shall be reasonably assured.

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NEW CENTRAL BANK HEAD, FINANCE MINISTER APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 15 May 84 pp 1, 11

[Article by R. Rodriguez Gomez]

[Text] President Salvador Jorge Blanco yesterday named Secretary of Finance Jose Santos Taveras to replace Bernardo Vega as governor of the Central Bank.

Economist Hugo Guilliani Cury was named secretary of finance.

Vega was left behind by the official bureaucracy; he had held his office since 16 August 1982.

As governor of the Central Bank, Santos Taveras will simultaneously be president of the Monetary Board, the institution that regulates the country's monetary policy.

Article 1 of Decree 1991 states that "Jose Santos Taveras is named governor of the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic."

Article 2 indicates that "Hugo Guilliani Cury is named secretary of state for finance."

Santos Taveras, an economist, served for a while as administrator of the state-run Dominican Cement Plant. From there he went on to hold the office of secretary of finance.

Guilliani Cury is an economist as well; he developed his professional career in the private sector, especially in the field of mortgage banking. He served as honorary economic adviser to President Salvador Jorge Blanco. Under Decree 1991, Santos Taveras and Guilliani Cury must comply with the provisions of Law 82 of 16 December 1979, which requires an inventory of the property and assets owned by public officials.

Bernardo Vega is a distinguished economist who, before serving as governor of the Central Bank, was an assistant governor and then member of the Monetary Board.

He has participated in numerous national and international conferences, and in the past he organized some economic forums and discussions.

He was among the group of economists who formed the economic chapter of the Academy of Sciences and produced the document known as Dominican Economy 76, which aroused much controversy in this discipline due to the repercussions of some of its proposals on the public offices that were later held by the economists who made up the group.

Vega is also active in other private endeavors, especially studying history and archeology.

He has been a prolific contributing columnist in newspapers, especially LISTIN DIARIO, and he has published several books and essays on economics and history.

Recently he has been going through Trujillo's private correspondence, which is deposited in the archives of the United States Library of Congress, with a view to publishing them.

Other Appointments

In addition, by means of Decree 1992 the president named Julio Soto Medina undersecretary of state of the interior and police, replacing Jose D. Ares Maldonado.

In Decree 2000, he designated Alfredo Regalado Lamarche assistant administrator general of the National Institute of Aid and Housing, to replace Dr Joselyn Gross de Ruiz after her resignation.

Foreign Service

Several appointments in the diplomatic service were also announced, not including ambassadors:

Radhames Marmolejos was named minister-councillor at the embassy in Costa Rica.

Dr Francisca Otilia Dominguez was appointed minister-councillor at the embassy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to replace Pedro Russo.

Pedro Russo was named consul general of the Republic of Mexico.

Dr Victor Manuel Berrido Lulo was made an attache at the embassy in Mexico.

Rafael Fernandez was named vice-consul in New York.

Julio Nolasco Rodriguez was designated first secretary at the embassy in Japan, replacing Vicente Peralta Camacho.

Gloria Zacarias Bendeck de Silhy was named councillor at the embassy in El Salvador.

/The President's Information and Press Office announced last night that Bernardo Vega will serve the country at the head of one of the embassies of

greatest "political and economic interest to the Republic." It did not indicate, however, when this appointment will be made, although well-informed sources did state that Vega will be named the Dominican ambassador to Washington./ [Passage enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface.]

Jose Antonio Brea Gutierrez will be the new minister-councillor in Spain, replacing Dr Cesar Fernandez Dominguez, who resigned.

Miss Luisa Altagracia Jafardo has been named second secretary of the embassy in Colombia.

Dr Rafael I. Socias Perez was designated attache at the embassy in Great Britain, to replace the outgoing Dr Jose Arturo Silie Ruiz.

William Paez Pantini will replace Gustavo Salvador Concha as minister-councillor at the embassy in Peru.

Dr Hanny Mateo has been chosen to replace Miss Heddy Reynoso Sicard as minister-councillor at the embassy in Brazil.

The new vice-consul in Miami will be Orlando Fernandez, as Rhino Mejia Ferres is leaving that post.

Dr Altigracia Josefina Margarita Cantizanos Rojas was designated vice-consul in Philadelphia, the United States.

Ines Josefina Matos Gomez was named vice-consul in Curacao, Dutch Antilles.

The following honorary appointments were made:

Dr Luis Emilio Mainardi Reyna, cultural attache at the consulate in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Eddy E. Berges Drayfous, consul in Tampa, Florida, the United States.

Miguel Mota, consul in Rhode Island, the United States.

Feliz Antonio Serrata Badia, attache at the consulate in New York.

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REMA VIOLENCE STIRS CONCERNS, POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS

Hanover Security Worries

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 May 84 p 3

[Text]

THE LACK OF SECURITY in areas of Eastern Hanover is brought to the personal attention of the Minister of National Security, Hon. Winston Spaulding, by the Hanover Parish Council.

At the monthly meeting of the Council last week Thursday, the view was expressed that the run-down condition of most of the parish's Police stations and the general lack of security in some areas were due to neglect on the part of the Security Ministry.

In their contributions, Councillors W.H. Gilles and C. Bowen, of the Haddington and Sandy Bay divisions respectively, complained of a build-up in crime in their divisions which they attributed to inadequate police security.

Both the Sandy Bay and Ramble Police Stations, the Councillors said, were without the services of police units which made patrolling and crime fighting in general, virtually impossible in these areas.

Councillor Gilles mentioned the Nyrere Farm for which he had requested the siting of a police

station months ago.

The residents of the Farm, he stated, were caught between the proverbial "devil and the deep blue sea" as it was located nine miles between both stations and fell within their jurisdictions but the stations could not effectively serve the area for lack of vehicles.

Nyrere Farm, Councillor Gilles said, was plagued with "criminals of the worst kinds" who seemed to be growing rapidly in numbers over night.

It was decided that another letter would be sent for the Minister's personal attention, requesting a reversal of his decision not to site a police station in the troubled Nyrere Farm area, and for prior attention to be given to the upgrading of both the Ramble and Sandy Bay Police Stations.

Criticism of Seaga's Reaction

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 May 84 p 8

[Text]

THE atrocities that occurred last week in Rema serve as yet another reminder of how tenuous is the surface stability in this country and how easily it can be ripped apart by the lawless elements with heavy weapons who operate under the cover of political protection.

Beginning with the Matthews Lane show of force by armed thugs intent on clearing the area of PNP supporters and escalating into this more recent butchery of JLP citizens by JLP gunmen, the picture that emerges is a frightening scenario of a society that dangerously permits political mobsters and murderers to operate beyond the reach of the law.

The facts of what led up to the violence are far from clearly established. **The Gleaner** reports and the PNP president Mr. Manley attribute the violence to attacks from Tivoli Gardens gunmen in their effort to wipe out JLP political defections in

Rema. The JLP leader Mr. Seaga accounts for the violence in terms of a squabble over a woman which ignited violence between Rema and Rose Town.

Unlike the Green Bay incident which was thoroughly researched by in-depth investigative journalism or even the PNP's rampage in Rema back in the 1970's in which the facts of the matter were made clear by detailed journalistic reports, the stories on last week's Rema atrocities consist of little more than hear-say elaborated into facts by speculative analyses all imbued with JLP or PNP Motives.

Clearly, some of the youth in Rema have defected to the PNP. Also tensions and conflicts have occurred between Tivoli and Rema activists in the past. Indeed, the assassination of 'Curly Locks' from Rema was one of several episodes surrounding those conflicts. This history of the Tivoli-Rema tensions has no doubt been the basis on which many interpretations see this as the basis of last week's Rema violence and accusing finger pointed at Tivoli Gardens.

The accounts being given to what led up to the violence by people in the area portray a scenario of conflicts and violence between Rema and Rose town and of the Tivoli people coming on the scene rather late. This account is more consistent with targets of violence which included the office of MP Spencer who was at the centre of the conflicts and whose office was burnt down. If the matter were simply reprisals against defectors to the PNP why would MP Spencer's office have been burnt out?

The precise identification of the gunmen who held the whole area under siege and held the security forces at bay is still unclear. Whether they were from Trivoli, Rose Town or some other garrison community is a matter of investigative

detail for the security forces to sort out with a view to apprehending them. But there seems to be a great impulse to tag the Tivoli community with responsibility for political purposes.

Frightening

What is frightening is that like so many mass political killings (Green Bay, Greenwich Town, Gold Street etc.) the society is going to fail again to find anyone responsible or accountable for these atrocious murders.

Had these acts of savagery been committed above Half-Way-Tree I am almost certain the city would have seen massive security action after that first night of killings. Why these animals were permitted to carry out this rampage for so long without a swift and decisive entry by substantial security reinforcements has to be answered before the jury of the nation by the Prime Minister and the Minister of security. Is it that we place no value on the lives of poor people?

I have no quarrel with the Prime Minister for

his efforts to get the warring factions to come together and negotiate a peace. The former Prime Minister, Mr. Manley, and other key PNP leaders did precisely that in the 1970s when internal war between PNP gangs erupted in Mr. Manley's constituency.

Where the Prime Minister has justifiably earned criticism is in the failure in his public statements to unequivocally condemn the killings, to express concern for the anarchy and lawlessness that was openly defying the authority of the police and to express an intent to bring the killers to justice in much the same way that he demanded drastic security action from the PNP government after the Gold Street massacre.

The country has been shocked at the way our Prime Minister has handled this Rema massacre as if it were a stone throwing incident between Rema and Rose Town.

Given the concern that is registering among the Jamaican public over these atrocities and how they were handled, both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Security would be well advised to let

the country know the full details of what happened and what is being done to bring the murderers to justice.

Fear

Serious fear also exists among elements in the police force who have come away from this incident concerned about the failure of those in authority to crush lawlessness when it rears its ugly head and threatens the lives, security and property of citizens and the lives of those men in uniform who have to face the mobsters with high-powered weapons.

Where do these weapons come from? Where do these people get so much ammunition to be able to engage in rapid fire for prolonged periods without running out of bullets? What is going to

happen to this country the day these gunmen decide to stop fighting each other and to wage an open war against the law abiding citizens? Who armed these animals to butcher our sons and daughters? Why can't the two sets of political leaders stand together and help the army and the police to clean up this menace of political guns before its too late? Are they going to wait until one of the party leaders gets assassinated before they act?

Can any of us have confidence in political leaders who seem to be protecting gunmen and have failed over the last 20 years to act decisively in trying to remove this cancer from our body politic? Can democracy in this country have any secure future when a tiny minority of violent butchers have the means and the will to hold us all at gunpoint?

Police Statement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 May 84 p 3

[Text] A statement has been issued by the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Joe Williams, on the events in Rema, Western Kingston, last weekend, with special reference to the reported use of AK-47 assault rifles in the incidents.

With regard to calls which have been made for an investigation to be made into the disturbance in which seven persons were killed, the Commissioner said investigations were "nearing completion" and statements and reports are to be submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions early.

Following is the text of the statement by Mr. Williams:

"As a result of certain incidents in areas of Western Kingdom and South West St. Andrew between 7th and 9th instant which have caused public concern, the Police High Command wishes to state that based on intelligence reports of uneasiness and internal quarrel among some groups in Rema, a strong detachment of Police and Army personnel raided the area during the night of 7th May and although nothing incriminating was found police personnel were posted in ambush as a preventive measure.

"However, despite the presence of police patrols at about 11 a.m. on Tuesday the 8th and again the said night there were shooting incidents which left two persons dead during the day and five during the night at a time when the area was in complete darkness as a result of a power failure. In both instances, the police responded and chased gunmen who escaped.

"The police presence was strengthened on Wednesday, May 9, and more plain clothes personnel were placed in ambush when there was a shooting incident between a police party and a group of gunmen who they accosted. During this shooting incident, and as a result of interference with the police radio network by unauthorised persons, other police units which were rushing to the area erroneously opened fire on a group of plain clothes policemen who were firing at gunmen.

"This brief and unfortunate incident would appear to have fuelled the rumour that the plain-clothes policemen were gunmen and have led to several erroneous statements and even apprehension on the part of the public.

"It is therefore stated for the public benefit and welfare that no AK-47 rifles were involved in any of these incidents and the public is hereby assured that top-level investigations into these shooting incidents and the death of persons are nearing completion and that all statements, ballistic reports and other particulars will be submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions for his ruling early."

Wounding of Police Officer

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 May 84 p 3

[Text] Acting Superintendent of Police in charge of the parish of Westmoreland, Mr. Wilbert Buchanan, was shot and wounded by gunmen on Wednesday night.

A police report said that Mr. Buchanan was at home in Deans Valley Westmoreland at about 11.30 p.m. when he heard gun shots coming from a neighbouring house. He went to investigate and was fired at by one of two gunmen who were trying to break into the house.

Supt. Buchannan, who was hit in the leg, was taken to the Savanna-la-Mar Hospital where he has been receiving treatment. His condition is not regarded as serious, according to a hospital source.

The police in Westmoreland are searching for the gunmen who escaped on foot.

Supt. Buchanan has been in the force for 40 years and is due to retire in November. He should have left the island yesterday on his pre retirement leave, according to a police source.

Manley Offer to JLP

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 20 May 84 p 1

[Text]

THE PRESIDENT of the People's National Party (PNP), Mr. Michael Manley, has written to the Leader of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), Prime Minister Edward Seaga, urging that talks aimed at stemming political violence be resumed between the JLP and the PNP.

Mr. Manley said in his letter that the recent events in Rema were "a terrible sign to Jamaica of the potential dangers of a return to the recent past." Mr. Manley said the PNP had indicated through "confidential channels" on more than one occasion this year that it was ready to resume the talks broken off after the elections last year, and to participate at the highest level.

Following informal discussions last year the top leadership of the PNP and the JLP, headed by both party leaders, met in Gordon House on September 13 to "examine mechanisms for creating safeguards against a recurrence of political violence.

After the meeting, the parties issued a joint statement in which it was stated that the secretaries of the parties would continue to meet "until a position is reached which will lead to further meetings of the leadership."

That meeting came following reports of sporadic outbreak of political violence over several months, with clashes involving gun violence in St. Catherine, Clarendon and St. Thomas.

The move against political violence seemed to gather momentum when in early October (weeks after the announcement that talks had been held and were to be held regularly in order to stem political violence) Fr. Richard Ho Lung made

a call on Prime Minister Seaga and Mr. Manley, who was then Opposition Leader, to call in the guns and to request members of their parties to desist from violence and to put away the guns once and for all. Both Mr. Manley and Mr. Seaga met separately with Fr. Ho Lung within days after he made the call.

Mr. Manley's letter dated May 18 reads:

"You will recall that before the events of December, 1983 talks had commenced between the JLP and the PNP aimed at finding answers to the problems of political violence. It was felt that a joint approach involving practical initiatives based on co-operation between the two major parties at all levels was urgently needed to try to avoid the horrors of 1980.

So far this year we have indicated on more than one occasion, through confidential channels, that we thought it important to resume those talks and indicated our willingness to participate.

The recent events in Rema were an entirely internal JLP affair and did not involve PNP supporters in any way. Nonetheless, they are a terrible sign to Jamaica of the potential dangers of a return to the pattern of the recent past.

It seems to us, therefore, that it is very urgent that the talks between the JLP and the PNP be resumed and I urge you to give this priority attention. As we had indicated before, we stand ready to participate at the highest levels."

There was no immediate indication of a response from Jamaica House up to late yesterday.

Genesis of Violence

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 May 84 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text]

THE gesture of the leader of the PNP in seeking to re-open a dialogue of peace with the JLP could hardly have come at a better time.

The heavy toll of human life in Rema and the loss of public confidence in the mainte-

nance of law and order are real costs that have been incurred by the country from some serious blunders in Rema within the ranks of the JLP. If we can salvage some gain in the way of a renewed effort by party leaders to bring the guns under better control there will at least be some compensatory gains, however small by comparison with the costs.

Of course, talk is cheap and what we need is some serious action. But it's at least a start, and Mr. Manley must be commended for starting the ball rolling. But let's not fool ourselves. The guns can be better controlled but neither Seaga nor Manley has it in their power to eliminate the guns. I must confess to having become deeply depressed about the implications of what took place in Rema since I wrote about the subject last week. Since then I have contacted and spoken to both JLP persons in Rema and policemen who were involved in the measures taken to restore order to the area.

The information I have gleaned confirms the worst fears of those angry citizens who have been making their feelings known or JBC's "Public Eye".

The puzzle I had to try to explain was how come a simple dispute over some domestic matter between JLP persons from Rema and Rose town escalated into a major invasion of Rema by JLP gunmen and a pattern of slaughter of partisans more akin to a PNP-JLI community war than to an internal JLI swuabble.

Beyond dispute

A number of facts about the build-up to these wanton acts of violence are beyond dispute. The are as follows.

1. The JLP activists in Rema have been very dissatisfied for some time over what the claim is the meagre job and other benefits they have received from the JLP government.
2. The present MP, Mr. Earle Spencer, has been articulating his constituents' dissatisfactions, much to the displeasure of some JLP leaders.
3. There are some power factions in the ward (in the JLP camp) who feel that M.P. Spencer is not resolute enough in controlling the youth and allows far too many squabbles and internal fights to be taking place in the area. In short, it was felt that he was not exercising enough control over his area.
4. The Rema JLP activists were in fact planning to march on the day Parliament was reopened to register their protest about alleged inadequate benefits from the JLP.
5. Activists in the more hard-line, loyal JLP communities such as Tivoli, saw these plans for public protest marches as an act of deep

disloyalty misguidedly encouraged by a maverick MP who seemed not to understand the power games of ghetto politics and was operating by rules nobody understood.

The flare-up of violence between Rose Town and Rema was therefore used as an excuse to move JLP "forces" into the area to bring Rema back in line, to straighten out the MP and to enforce party discipline.

While, therefore, the Prime Minister's account of the genesis of the violence is correct what is left out is the politics of how come this simple conflict escalated into mass slaughter. It did not simply get out of hand as Mr. Seaga suggests. The enforcers (who have certainly been identified) and who went into Rema to bring this errant JLP community back in line are the ones who escalated by violence.

Codes of conduct

Now ghetto politics operates by certain codes of conduct. Gunmen represent an important element of community leadership in these areas. The top ranking among them usually help in dealing with trouble makers who take advantage of persons in their own community. But the idea of sending in top ranking gunmen from other communities to discipline activists in another community is a departure from the usual methods of how ghetto communities handle these sorts of problems.

Given the background of conflicts between Rema and Tivoli "top ranking" in the period since 1980. The invasion of Rema by these enforcers from other JLP communities was likely to result in the outcome that occurred.

The invasion of Rema was not the result of some band of anarchists on a rampage. It bears all the features of a calculated decision to discipline this community and to deter its activists from embarrassing the JLP government by marching in the streets.

Whoever took the decision to deploy these shock troops is as much responsible for the violence and murders that happened in Rema as the gunmen who pulled the triggers.

This political background explains why the PNP's office was burnt out and why he was advised by the police to "keep scarce" as his life was in danger.

If JLP gunmen are as savage in Rema in dealing with their own JLP adherents, what kind of extreme atrocities would they have in store for those in the enemy camp?

I frankly don't know if any commissions of enquiry can really get at the root of this problem of gun violence and its political manifestation. Who but a martyr would dare give evidence citing names, chapter and verse about what happened in Rema?

The courts are of no use either, as no witness ever survives to give incriminating evidence against the "warlords" who rule the ghetto.

We have had a lot of talk about peace. But can peace talk really get at the foot of the organised violence that has become a power base for those who control the gun?

The political leaders don't trust each other which means that we will talk about peace to earn credits with public opinion but they will neither banish gunmen from their party organisations nor turn them into the police.

But even if the two major parties and the WPJ were to decide to ostracise the ghetto gunman, it is likely that the fraternal order of generals in the streets would become even more threatening to the society as their power in the community would not disappear and they would join into a more unified force of outlaws that would prey on the society without the restraining influence of tied to party politicians.

Gun power

The gun is as much as source of political and social power as money and and as ghetto warlords have access to high powered weapons and mountains of ammunition they will be powerfer force to reckon with inside or outside the framework of political parties.

So long as the society is so terrorized by the gun that the warlords need not fear the courts or public enquiries, there can be no peace inthe society, no

matter what agreements Manley and Seaga make about a political truce. Indeed, past experience suggests that the less party violence is taking place, the more the guns are used to rob householders and businesses.

Social bandintry disconnected from JLP or PNP politics is likely to be more devastating than what now have.

The large number weapons in the country and the sophistication with which the more expert of the warlords are able to handle them suggest that we have long passed the stage when even with a security force and a free hand it is realistic to expect that our army and police have any real chance of exterminating the warlords.

Minister Spauldings is right on one thing. The guns and the gunmen are entrenched in our social system and it would be foolish to believe that there is any easy way to solve this problem.

What citizens have a right to expect, however, is that the warlords will be restrained by decisive security action, which did not happen in Rema; and that those political brokers who deploy the warlords will refrain setting up scenarios such as Rema that will inevitably produce anarchy and unrestrained bloodletting.

PNP on March Ban, IMF

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 May 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] The People's National Party has postponed its assembly in Cross Roads set for today as a result of the President Mr. Michael Manley suffering from "acute intestinal inflammation."

Party Chairman, Mr. P. J. Patterson, told a press conference at the PNP headquarters yesterday that Mr. Manley had been "confined to bed" for a "few days" on doctors' instructions.

Mr. Patterson said that the P.N.P. President would be in bed until Friday but the prognosis was that he would be "well enough" to attend the Party's delegate's conference on Saturday and Sunday.

Following statements by the PNP over the week-end that it would still go ahead with plans to assemble to coincide with the Prime Minister's Budget presentation in the face of a ban put on marches and demonstrations, the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Joe Williamson issued a warning yesterday that the "law will be strongly enforced and no assembly will be allowed."

According to Mr. Patterson, the PNP wished to make it clear that its decision to postpone its plans for lawful assembly of its supporters was based purely on the temporary illness of the Party Leader.

"The Party does not accept the arbitrary announcement by the Police Commissioner which infringes the democratic right of all citizens of Jamaica to stage legitimate protest, Mr. Patterson said.

"It is a strange coincidence that on every occasion that the Party has indicated an intention to march, the police receive soon thereafter an application from JLP sources. This in itself is not valid reason for refusing permission," he said.

Mr. Patterson noted that the Party had acted responsibly in seeking to advise the police of its plans in advance and to offer full co-operation, adding that the Police High Command, by their denial of permits to march, were confessing their "incapacity to afford citizens protection in the expression of their Constitutional rights."

The Police High Command must recognise that the voice of the people would not be stifled, he said.

Mr. Patterson added that the PNP would shortly announce plans for the holding of peaceful assemblies to protest "the savage daily increases in the cost of living and to support the demand for a public enquiry into the Rema atrocities."

Answering a question as to the credibility of the account that Mr. Manley was ill and whether it should have an impact on the planned assembly, Mr. Patterson said that Mr. Manley had been suffering from the illness for a long time and that in fact he had been given a sedative to allow him to speak at the National Workers' Union Congress on Sunday.

The Party considered the matter "carefully", he said, adding that for them to have had a demonstration or an assembly where "we would have to state in advance that the leader would not be present, we would have demobilised the crowd."

In another statement at the press conference, PNP Vice President and spokesman on Finance, Mr. Seymour Mullings, said that the Party was serving notice on Prime Minister Edward Seaga that it was making the following demands:

1. That the galloping devaluation of the Jamaican dollar must come to an end. It suggested that the rate be stabilised for one year.
2. A full disclosure of the terms and conditions of the IMF must be given.
3. Rescheduling of Jamaica's debt in the face of 40 per cent of the recurrent Budget for the current financial year to be spent on foreign-debt servicing.
4. The Government must place the purchase of raw materials with foreign exchange as priority.
5. The Government must state categorically whether it proposes to carry out a programme of widespread lay-offs in the public sector.
6. There must be no further increase in the price of gasoline.

7. Mr. Seaga must spell out the details of the Food Aid Programme. Bona fide welfare agencies, including the Church, must be involved in the supervision, the allocation and the distribution of this aid to ensure that there is no political bias or discrimination in the scheme.

Seaga Acceptance of Manley Offer

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 May 84 p 1

[Text]

A PROPOSAL for the resumption next week Tuesday of bi-partisan talks between the Jamaica Labour Party and the Peoples National Party to find safeguards against political violence was made yesterday by Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

The Prime Minister was responding to a letter last weekend from Mr. Michael Manley, PNP Leader, calling for a resumption of the talks; but Mr. Seaga made the point that the talks had not been discontinued since the General Secretaries of both parties had been in contact as recently as May 3.

In his letter to the Prime Minister Mr. Manley spoke of the events in Rema as "a terrible sign to Jamaica of the potential dangers of a return to the recent past." He said it was very urgent that talks between the parties should be resumed.

Mr. Seaga replied to Mr. Manley as follows:

"Dear Mr. Manley,

I have for acknowledgement your letter of May 15.

You will recall that at our meeting on September 13, 1983, it was agreed that the General Secretaries of both parties would continue to explore mechanisms for creating safeguards against political violence until a position is reached which would form the basis of further meetings between the leadership of both parties.

Contrary to the impression conveyed in your letter, these bi-partisan talks have not been discontinued. Indeed your General Secretary, Dr. Paul Robertson, will confirm that the General Secretary of the JLP, Mr. Bruce Golding, and himself last met on March 27 in continuation of the dialogue which commenced in January 1983 and which led to the meeting between

the leadership of both parties in September.

Dr. Robertson will further confirm that in a telephone conversation with Mr. Golding as recently as May 3, we expressed the desire to continue the dialogue.

Accordingly, I propose that both General Secretaries meet again on Tuesday, May 29 and as frequently as necessary to finalise the proposals which could form the basis of an early meeting between the leadership of both parties.

Yours sincerely,
Edward Seaga
Prime Minister

The bi-partisan talks were initiated last September when the party leaders met at Gordon House and agreed that the secretaries would continue until they reached a point where the top leadership could meet again.

The meeting followed reports of sporadic outbreaks of political violence over several months in at least three parishes.

Shoot-Up of MP's Car

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 May 84 p 1

[Text]

The car of M.P. for East Kingston, the Hon. Anthony Abrahams, was shot-up by gunmen in the violence-stricken area of that part of the Corporate Area near midnight on Tuesday, in gun-shootings which left at least one person dead.

His car, a Ford Granada, was being driven by his chauffeur, with a female occupant on Wareika Road around 11.30 p.m., when it came under heavy gunfire from a gang of about ten.

The left rear and front doors were riddled by gunshots.

The occupants escaped unhurt.

Earlier in the night, around 8.30 p.m., Norman Matthis, 22, factory worker of Homestead Road, in the same Kingston 2 area, was shot dead by one of two gunmen who invaded a meeting of the Vanguard Progress-

sive Youth Club in Rollington Town.

Reports are that when the gunmen, said to be political activists, entered the building, persons there fled and gunfire was opened killing Mr. Matthis.

Police from Rollington Town station are seeking two men, one known as "Flames" and the other as "Tony" who they believe can help in their investigations.

The east end of Kingston has been wracked by gang warfare in recent months, in which at least six persons have been shot dead and several others shot and wounded.

Residents in the troubled communities have been warned by gang-land sources not to be on the streets after 9 o'clock in the nights "or else."

Discovery of Arms Cache

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 May 84 p 1

[Text]

An arms cache consisting of several rifles, sub-machine guns and pistols and thousands of rounds of ammunition was seized by police at Western Terminals in Kingston yesterday. The arms and ammunition arrived in a container from Miami, Florida, USA.

A statement last night from the Police Information Centre on the discovery said:

"The Minister of National Security, Hon. Winston Spaulding, and Police Commissioner Joe Williams have intensified top-level investigations into the discovery of an arms cache which

was found at Berth 1, Western Terminals, Newport West, this afternoon.

"The arms, which included rifles and sub-machine guns, pistols and several thousand rounds of ammunition for the weapons, arrived from Miami in a container which was seized. A thorough search is being carried out on other containers.

"The weapons, all of which had their serial numbers erased, were made in various countries including Brazil and Italy. The origin of the ammunition is being investigated as also the name and addresses of the consignor and consignee, who are the subject of intensive investigations."

PNP View of Arms Find

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER IN English 17 May 84 p 1

[Text]

The Kingston Western Terminal Wharf Company, denied yesterday that an arms cache was found there, as was reported in the **Gleaner** yesterday.

A report from the Police Information Centre said that the Minister of National Security, the Hon. Winston Spalding, and Police Commissioner, Mr. Joe Williams, had intensified top-level investigations into the discovery of arms cache which was found at Berth 1, Western Terminals, Newport West.

Mr. Donald Haisley, General Manager, said yesterday:

"Western Terminals wishes to advise the public at large and all concerned that no such incident took

place at any of the facilities owned by Western Terminals Limited."

But last night, the police on being told of the Western Terminals denial, insisted that the find had been made there.

At the same time a statement was issued yesterday by the People's National Party, on the reported find.

Mr. Michael Manley, PNP President, said:

"We are concerned as to what is the possible link between the weapons discovered on the wharves and the weaponry available to gunmen from Tivoli Gardens.

"The People's National Party calls for the most thorough investigation into how the arms came to Jamaica, from where they originate, to whom they were consigned."

Discrepancy Over Cache Site

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 May 84 p 1

[Text]

Latest development in the reported find of an arms cache on the Kingston waterfront is that the place of discovery is now given as the No. 116 Warehouse, in Newport West.

A report to the **Gleaner** yesterday

said that the Customs Service was responsible for detecting the arrival of the shipment of arms and ammunition at the warehouse.

According to the information, No. 116 Warehouse is a private bonded warehouse in Newport West. It forms part of what is known as Newport Warehousing on Third Avenue, in the area.

The find was made by customs officers on Tuesday, May 15, and the shipment was consigned in the name of an individual who has not yet been traced.

"The Customs officers have been commended by the Government for the alertness," the source said.

First reports placed the find in the section of Newport West which is operated by Western Terminals, the wharf company has denied the report.

Newport West is part of the Kingston waterfront complex known as Port Bustamante. It comprises Newport West and Newport East. Operators in Newport West are Western Terminals and Kingston Wharves.

MANLEY ADDRESSES NWU, HITS IMF-IMPOSED 'SUFFERING'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 May 84 p 3

[Text]

The National Workers Union has been urged by its new president, Mr. Michael Manley, to start a movement among the workers to oppose any further hardships caused by agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), until the full agreement between the Government and the Fund was exposed to the trade union movement.

Mr. Manley told last Sunday's public session of the union's annual conference at which he was elected:

"Our union should start to work among the working classes to make them distinguish between the illusion and the reality. We should start a movement that says no more IMF suffering, 'til we are consulted about the economic strategy on behalf of the workers of this country."

Mr. Manley went on to list certain demands which he said would be made on the Government by the union:

The first demand was that the Government end what he called "the creeping lay-offs in the public sector." "We demand that the Government come and tell us what is their plan for public sector employment," he said.

The second demand, he said, was that the "full secrets of the IMF agreement" be made known: "And let us know once and for all, what is it that Seaga is asking Jamaica to accept. Put it out on the table and stop the creeping IMF programme."

The third demand was for the passage of amendments proposed to certain labour legislation. "We demand that they find time from Hollywood to pass the labour legislation amendments," he said.

The fourth demand was for dialogue on what is the "national interest."

He said he had no doubt that the

people involved in the shootings in Rema felt that what they did was in the national interest, and that certain elements in the society felt that all strikes were contrary to the national interest.

Mr. Manley said that there were a number of agreed recommendations for amendment to labour legislation which, although being unanimously supported, had not been enacted.

"And we call upon the Government to act in those regards. I say to the Government, if you can find all this time to go gallivanting around Hollywood, talking about getting films made here: If you can find the time to gallivant in Hollywood, then sit down at your desk and do some work on the labour legislations that are needed in the country," Mr. Manley said.

He said that there were a number of amendments for which the NWU would campaign, although they were not yet the unanimously accepted.

Among those he named laws relating to dismissal cases, where he said the law must provide that the right to insist upon an hearing that could involve reinstatement was an exclusive right of the worker.

Secondly, he said that it was a travesty to have the law provide that where there were recognition disputes, it is subject to the concurrence of the employers to have the dispute resolved according to the law.

Mr. Manley said that the unilateral right of the worker and the union to insist upon those procedures must be a major point of amendment.

"I notice with concern that there are voices in the country that are trying to turn us back, and that for example one of the fundamental provisions introduced between 1972 and 1980, making reinstatement a statutory power of tribunals; that there are now forces in Jamaica

calling for that to be removed. I can only say that if anybody dares to trespass on that right let them beware the assembled power of the trade union movement of Jamaica."

Mr. Manley said the union would also press for legislation on notice of lay-off; insist that it must be clear in the law that industrial action is not illegal; insist that the Ministry of Labour ought not to have the power to intervene unilaterally; and, that no criminal proceedings be attached to union officers doing their "lawful" service.

In his address Mr. Manley also made clear that he had accepted the Presidency on the understanding that he would not be a frontline negotiator but would advise the union at the leadership and executive levels.

Prior to Mr. Manley's address \$1,000 was collected from those present to pay for his broadcast to the nation on the shootings recently in Rema.

Other speakers at the congress included Dr. Omar Davis, economist, who said that

the allocations to the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance, which he said was some 50 per cent of the overall budget, fell under one person, the Minister of Finance. He said that this showed to what extent the IMF was deciding Jamaica's future through one person.

Guest speaker at the congress was Mr. John Fryer, of the Canadian Labour Congress and the National Union of Provincial Government Employees.

Mr. Fryer noted that a large part of the world was shifting to the right and that those countries were being run for people who he said lived for "dividends, interest and profits," and not wages.

He said that the move to the right had been successful because the left had been caught off-guard and democratic socialism as an alternative had found itself on the defensive.

He said that there was no choice for the workers and their leaders but to take back that power from the "rightwing" and consolidate democratic socialism.

SEAGA, MANLEY ISSUE LABOR DAY MESSAGES TO WORKERS

Seaga on New Proposals

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 May 84 p 1

[Text]

Details of a new minimum wage and income tax reliefs for lower income scales will be announced by Prime Minister Edward Seaga when he opens the Budget Debate in the House of Representatives tomorrow.

Mr. Seaga will also be tabling the findings of a Task Force set up two years ago to examine worker attitudes and labour legislation.

Announcements to this effect were made in a Labour Day message from the Prime Minister released by Jamaica House last night. The message said:

"Today, Labour Day 1984, we honour once again the contribution of the worker to our country and the value we place on work well done and fairly rewarded.

Labour Day has an added significance this year as we are commemorating the centenary of Sir Alexander Bustamante, who above all others, pioneered the modern labour movement in Jamaica. The groundwork for most of the rights enjoyed by the Jamaican worker today was without question laid by Bustamante.

From his demands for better pay, reasonable hours and humane working conditions, was born the first effective popular organizations in this country.

Modern Jamaica, therefore, began with the assertion that honest labour and fair reward are the foundations of free and prosperous societies.

There is no question that the

Jamaican worker has come a long way in securing justice at the workplace, since the memorable days of 1938. But equally we must recognize that there is much yet to be done, especially with regard to the attitudes of both labour and management towards each other. This in turn has fundamental implications for our ability to make Jamaica a prosperous and productive society.

This is one reason why, two years ago, I set up a Task Force to examine worker attitudes and labour legislation and to recommend what steps should be taken to develop more harmonious relationships at the workplace and more positive attitudes to work.

Tomorrow, when I present the Budget, I will be tabling in Parliament the findings of the Report of this Task Force, which is being published as a Green Paper including a companion Survey.

This will allow the country an opportunity to study and debate, on the basis of informed research by some of our most experienced labour relations experts, this most important issue.

I shall also be announcing tomorrow details of two other matters of even more immediate importance to the workers of Jamaica — the new minimum wage, and a package of tax reliefs which will benefit those in the lower income scales.

So, as was the case last year, when

Labour Day coincided with the announcement of a reduction of the tax on overtime to a ceiling of 30 per cent. Jamaican workers can look forward on Labour Day 1984 to a number of tangible benefits. Jamaican workers can also look forward to participation in a national dialogue which will influence reforms of existing labour laws and conditions at the workplace.

But I want to return to the central issue which all of us must confront as we contemplate the challenges that Jamaica faces today. This is: how can we put more people to work and make our work more productive?

In order to accomplish this the country is undergoing a necessary structural adjustment which, like all changes, has brought with its shifts and displacements. But this is the only way to rebuild the economic base of the country and the only way in which we can secure the future of the worker, and hope of employment for those now without jobs.

Once again it is my hope that we can join hands as a nation — labour, management, unions, government, private and public sector — in developing a greater understanding of the work which each has to do, and of the responsibilities which each has to the other and to the country."

Manley on Workers' Gains

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 May 84 p 3

[Text]

THE PRESIDENT of the People's National Party, Mr. Michael Manley, has issued the following message to mark Labour Day:

"Labour Day, when conceived, was intended to be a day for celebrating the first major victory in 1938 by the workers of Jamaica in the battle against oppression and exploitation.

"Since that first victory many battles have been fought—many have been won; some have been lost.

"Today, there is a subtle pressure to remove many of the rights won by the workers in various struggles. For example, we recently witnessed a deliberate attempt to impose taxes on allowances which were negotiated between workers and employers in good faith. The attempt was exposed, but the threat still remains.

"In addition, the purchasing power of workers has been eroded by harsh increases in the prices of necessities—transportation costs, school fees, drugs, food, rent and mortgage, cooking gas, gasoline, kerosene oil, condensed milk—as the Jamaican dollar has been weakened.

"There has also been no serious attempt to pass into law amendments to existing labour relations laws despite agreement on these amendments.

"The principle of worker participation as a means of developing close manager/worker relations has not been encouraged by the present administration. In fact, there is a reversal of this movement.

"As we celebrate Labour Day tomorrow, we have a lot for which to be thankful and many early labour leaders—Sir Alexander Bustamante, St. William Grant, Thosy Kelly, Father Coombs, Ken and Frank Hill, Ken Sterling and others — to whom we owe a debt this and future generations can never repay.

"We must constantly be on guard to ensure that the gains made by the workers of Jamaica are not lost either through indifference or default.

"To those who have continued to "Put work into Labour Day" and to work on community development projects as their way of demonstrating that there is pride and dignity in labour, I say thanks. Regrettably, my doctor has ordered me to bed due to a recurring illness and I cannot work with you this year.

"May God go with you."

CSO: 3298/874

COST OF DEBT SERVICING MORE THAN DOUBLES IN TWO YEARS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 May 84 p 3

[Article by Financial Analyst]

[Text]

\$317 million more has to be found this year to finance interest and capital repayments of Government's borrowings. A total of \$1,466 million is budgeted to be used for this purpose in 1984/85.

The terrible burden of debt servicing has more than doubled in the last two years.

JS Million	1984/85	1983/84	1982/83
Interest	1,067	778	524
Repayment of Loans	345	330	134
Sinking Fund	54	41	37
	<u>1,466</u>	<u>1,149</u>	<u>695</u>

To put this into perspective —

	JS Million	%
Increase in debt servicing	317	75
All other budget increases	109	25
TOTAL BUDGET INCREASE	<u>426</u>	<u>100%</u>

The increase in the cost of debt servicing accounts for 75 cents in every dollar of increased total budget expenditure.

Excluding debt servicing, the 1984/85 budget only shows an increase of 4 per cent over the 1983/84 revised budget.

This 4 per cent increase is measured in monetary term. Taking into account local inflation plus the portion of the budget which has to be purchased in foreign exchange, the 1984/85 budget may well have shown a 15 to 20 per cent REDUCTION IN REAL TERMS.

Lots more trouble looms ahead. The budget is produced on a cash basis. The true cost of the devaluation is not shown. There is an enormous amount of debt to be repaid in future years in devalued dollars which is not costed into this budget.

WORLD BANK LOAN WILL AID GROWERS OF EXPORT CROPS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 May 84 p 1

[Text]

The Ministry of Agriculture is to undertake a project to expand the production of local export crops, with a US \$15.1 million World Bank loan (about J\$60 million) agreed on in Washington on May 17.

A major portion of the loan will be channelled to commercial banks through the agricultural Credit Bank, for loans to between 500 and 700 growers of sugar cane, bananas, coconut, citrus, vegetables, Blue Mountain coffee, cigar tobacco, and ornamental horticulture for expansion and rehabilitation purposes.

This will provide jobs for 2,000 people, a J.I.S. news release said.

A technical assistance component to be implemented by the Project Management Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture will see to such areas as quarantining shed storage, plant protection and cigar tobacco processing facilities.

Another arm of the project provides for research relating to export crops, marketing studies and the training of agricultural managers, professionals and technicians.

The programme also allows for the introduction of new export crops found to be feasible as well as for the transfer of funds from one crop area to another. The overall programme will be supervised by a Board of Management from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The project was first identified by a Food and Agriculture Organisation mission to Jamaica in 1981, in co-operation with the Rural Development Unit of the Ministry. This was followed by a visit by two preparation teams which submitted reports to the World Bank in 1982.

the loan was negotiated with the World Bank by a Jamaican team led by Financial Secretary, Harold Milner.

Agreement in principle has been reached whereby the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company will market all the rice produced on lands farmed by Bogue Estates Ltd., a part of the Coptic organisation in St. Elizabeth.

In making the announcement, the Executive Director of Bogue Estates Ltd., Mr. James Robinson, said that this agreement will facilitate the company's decision to expand its rice cultivation from the present 450 acres to 1,500 acres.

This, he said, will also increase the feasibility of establishment of a modern rice mill on the estate. The mill which has already been ordered at a cost of U.S. \$1½m will have a capacity of 2½ tons of rice per hour.

Further development on the estate will include the sinking of a well for which permission has been obtained. This well is expected to provide enough water to also meet the needs of the BRUMDEC development.

Mr. Robinson said that negotiations on the financial package to import the mill and to put in the well to enhance the development are nearing completion. He expressed his company's appreciation for the assistance given by the co-ordinator of the Agro-21 Programme, the Hon. Brascoe Lee.

An early agreement on the financial package would make it possible to have the mill in operation by September of this year, he added.

DEPARTING VENEZUELAN ENVOY HAILED AS 'TRUE FRIEND'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 May 84 p 13

[Text]

Venezuela's Ambassador to Jamaica Sr. Pedro Luis Echeverria, paid a farewell visit to the Minister of Mining and Energy, Hon. Hugh Hart, at the Minister's office on May 1.

During the meeting, the Minister expressed his deep appreciation to the Ambassador for the significant role which he had played in consolidating and furthering the co-operation and friendship between Venezuela and Jamaica, often going beyond the call of duty to assist in many projects.

Particularly mentioned were the areas of crude oil supplies to Jamaica under the San Jose Accord, and Jamaica's supply contract for alumina to Venezuela's state-owned company, Venalum.

Referring to the Ambassador as "not only an excellent representative of his country, but also a true friend of Jamaica and many Jamaicans, personally," Minister Hart wished him every success in his future un-

dertakings, and presented him with a painting by Jamaican artist, Alexander Cooper, entitled "Country Road", which he said he hoped would serve as a reminder to the Ambassador of his Jamaican sojourn.

Associating himself with the Minister's remarks was Mr. Bill Saunders, Managing director of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica, who added his own thanks and appreciation to the Ambassador for the unfailing co-operation and assistance which he had always received in matters affecting the Corporation and, particularly, the Kingston Refinery operated by Petrojam Limited, a subsidiary of the Petroleum Corporation.

The Ambassador thanked Mr. Hart for

his kind remarks and for the gift. He said he and his wife had grown extremely fond of Jamaica and of its people during their stay here.

Sr. Echeverria said that he had been only too pleased to contribute to the growth of the warm and close relationship between the two countries, and looked forward to continuing to assist in whatever way he could, since he would always consider himself a friend of Jamaica.

The Ambassador was accompanied on his visit by Sr. Francisco Iturbe, Charge d'Affaires of the Venezuelan Embassy.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Mining and Energy, St. Clare Ridsen, was also present.

BRIEFS

FISHING IN COLOMBIAN WATERS--A Jamaica/Colombia fishing agreement which was signed in August, 1982, allowing Jamaican vessels to fish legally in Colombian waters, is now in effect. The M. V. Dolphin, a Government-owned vessel, off-loaded its cargo of approximately 6,500 lbs. of fish at the Fisheries Complex, Newport East, Kingston, on May 15, after having completed its first voyage to Colombian waters, under the agreement. The captain of the vessel, Mr. Clinton Jennings, said it was one of the best catches he has had in three years. He attributed this to the expanded area over which the boat could now fish. Some 10 vessels will be allowed to fish in Colombian waters under the agreement. Three, including the Polaris and Captain B, are presently engaged in fishing there. The Director of Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Eustace Royer, who observed the off-loading, expressed pleasure at the quantity and quality of the catch. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 May 84 p 14]

CSO: 3298/875

CHIHUAHUA DISTURBANCES LAID TO PRI-PAN RIVALRY

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 393, 14 May 84 p 31

[Text] Chihuahua--As a result of the May 3rd disturbances in Chihuahua City, in which a policeman and a civilian lost their lives, the state capital has turned into a powder keg.

The tension has been growing daily between PAN members and supporters of the Popular Defense Committee (CDP), an organization presumably financed and manipulated by PRI politicians, which last week asked the state congress to abolish municipal powers.

In the reply to this request, thousands of PAN supporters took to the streets--on Wednesday, 9 May and Thursday, the 10th--to show their support for the municipal chairman, Luis H. Alvarez, who defeated the PRI candidate in last July's elections, and to condemn the violence by "gangster minorities," as they call the CDP supporters.

The source of the conflict is the Lagarreta farm, a 14-hectare property whose owners put it up for sale and sought to divide it up into town lots. At a town meeting, the town council approved of the division, providing it received 20 percent of the area to be turned into a green belt.

But because there was collective pressure to have the whole property turned into a park, the town council reconsidered the matter and decided to establish a committee which would be in charge of raising funds to purchase the 14 hectares and to make the property into a green belt for the benefit of the settlements to the north of the city.

But the CDP supporters got carried away: on 2 May, a group of them invaded the farm and took down part of the fence. The next day, the town council sent about 10 unarmed policemen to guard the property and put an end to the vandalism. But at 8 pm the 10 policemen were attacked. One of them died and three others were wounded. The other six asked for help and 100 additional uniformed police and agents of the so-called Special Services came to their aid.

There was a ruckus in which another person, a civilian, died, and 12 others were injured. According to the local press, it was a "night of blood and terror."

The next day, organizations in the private sector said the actions of the CDP were reprehensible and asked Governor Oscar Ornelas to punish the assailants. For their part, leaders from the low income settlements, like La Proletaria No 1, San Lazaro, San Jorge and others, expressed their support for the PAN-supported town council and accused the CDP of being an organization manipulated by the PRI and by the state government.

For its part, the CDP handed the local congress a demand for abolition of municipal powers, which was shifted to the Permanent Committee.

And on Wednesday, 9 May both PAN and CDP supporters took to the streets and held rallies, the first ones in support of Mayor Luis H. Alvarez and the second to accuse the PAN administration of abuse of power and inability to solve the city's problems.

In the process, other interests came to light: four reporters from the newspaper EL NORTE, managed by Carlos Loret de Mola, were discharged in reprisal, because they protested that their information about the conflict was manipulated and distorted. Besides, CDP leaders accused the mayor of refusing to expropriate the 14 hectares in order to protect the owners, the brothers Ruben, Francisco and Oscar Legarreta Ronquil, who are fellow PAN members.

On Thursday, 10 May, PAN and CDP supporters were at it again. Both groups held meetings at which they reiterated their mutual accusations. Guillermo Prieto, state leader of PAN, noted that his colleagues were not about to "turn the other cheek" and that they would take to the streets as often as necessary to defend the town council. And the CDP leader, Ruben Aguilar, threatened: "We will move mountains, we will do our utmost, but we will not abandon the struggle until the municipal powers have been greatly changed."

Interviewed by PROCESO, Mayor Alvarez announced:

"There is a conspiracy by the state machine against the PAN administrations in Chihuahua. This is why we shall go on to expose, by means of an investigation, those in the Chihuahua state government who are financing gangster actions."

12448

CSO: 3248/652

BRIEFS

CAMPECHE BISHOP WELCOMES REFUGEES--When he said that the relocation of refugees is a "praiseworthy action" of the authorities and of the people, Hector Gonzalez Martinez, the bishop of Campeche, stated that in his opinion, the opposition of some people will soon yield, with guidance and the moral awareness that settling [refugees] is a way of respecting and applying human rights, and with the knowledge that our countrymen who need to leave the country--the "undocumented workers"--are not always accepted. "We think that in this way Mexico is giving a good example of its respect and application of basic human rights." He stated that as far as problems are concerned, the work of the Catholic Church will have to surmount not only the shortage of personnel (in Campeche there are two parishes and a benefice without priests), but also ignorance of the language [the refugees] speak. The bishop also expressed particular concern about a possible proliferation of Protestant sects in the state. "It certainly is a risk. It is said that among the refugees there are many sects, including that of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, that are understanding unity and sowing dissension. The authorities must be mindful not to let divisive elements that reject national values and encourage the disintegration of the country undermine us."

[Excerpt] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 17 May 84 p 3] 12448

CSO: 3248/652

TWO MINISTERS RESIGN FROM MARTINA CABINET

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 17 May 84 p 3

[Text] The Hague/Willemstad, 17 May--The Antillean minister of state structure, Richardson, stepped down yesterday. He is the second minister in two weeks to leave the Martina cabinet.

With the resignation of the unaligned Richardson, the preparations for Aruba's separate status are in danger of encountering further delays. For it was Richardson's task to coordinate the activities. In a short time, he was supposed to come up with a proposal for settling the controversial question of the solidarity fund for the smaller Antillean islands.

It is still not clear why Richardson stepped down. For some time, there have been difficulties in the Antillean government, which reached their high point a couple weeks ago when the deputy premier, Mrs. Croes of the Aruban party PPA [Aruban Patriotic Party], invited Minister De Koning, on the shortest possible notice, to come to the Antilles for a discussion of the solidarity fund. At the time, Premier Martina and Vice-Premier De Paula were staying in Washington.

De Koning's visit did not yield any results at all, above all because of the faulty preparations. Because of the criticism that broke out as a result of this, Mrs. Croes found herself compelled to step down, an example that has now been followed by Richardson.

That Betico Croes' Aruban party MEP [Peoples Electoral Movement], which has an absolute majority on Aruba, has been demanding, since the island elections of last year, that his party be included in Premier Martina's central government also played a role. The conditions that he set for this, however, among them having the Finance portfolio, were unacceptable to the other parties.

Yesterday evening, Croes angrily declared to the Aruban Assembly that he would soon go directly before the Dutch General Assembly to defend his demands, if the other parties continue to refuse to admit the MEP to the central government. Minister De Koning and the Dutch political parties have repeatedly said that they would regard the MEP's entry as a good thing. Their view is that a unified government would be in a better position to bring the preparations for Aruba's separate status to a successful conclusion.

HEAD OF SANDINIST POLICE COMMENTS ON CHANGES, ACHIEVEMENTS

Havana MONCADA in Spanish Apr 84 pp 8-11

[Article by Teresa Valdes: "Sandinist Police in Action"]

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Walter Ferreti, chief of the young Sandinist Police, gives us a picture of the activities carried out by members of that body to advance their revolution.

The Cuban fightingmen, who are closely linked to the revolutionary process taking place in the sister nation of Nicaragua, have many questions about the Sandinist Police.

An interview with the commander of the revolution who is chief of the Sandinist Police gave us an opportunity to look into some of the questions dealing with the operation of that armed body, its bonds with the people, the way they handle anti-social and counterrevolutionary conduct, as well as the activities they carry out on all fronts in the fight against banditry.

The first question we put to the young commander was designed to tell us something about his opinion of the role which the new police must play in the light of the social changes that are taking place in Nicaragua.

"I basically believe that the history of our peoples is repeated through the development of revolutions since criminal activities in an identical fashion create negative patterns of conduct which resemble those that you had and faced during the first few years of the revolution's triumph. Of course, we are now facing some differences here which are in keeping with the idiosyncrasy of our peoples."

"Now, the new organization of society generates particular situations as regards criminal conduct and identifies it with the counterrevolution; here we might first of all mention crimes against the people's economy, trafficking in foreign exchange and precious metals, and criminal actions of all kinds through which domestic criminals play into the hands of the enemy as he pursues his attempts at destabilization.

"We are working not only to wipe out crime but to rally everybody for preventive activities because we must eliminate the causes responsible for crime, causes which we unfortunately inherited."

Talking about the makeup of Police and its founders, Commander of the Revolution Walter Ferreti said:

"We must look for the historical background during the final offensive, after the capture of Massaya, where we established the first police unit by order of Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez.

"As a result of the final triumph, we organized the police commands which were headed by Commander Rene Rivas Lugo; he was their first chief; today he is vice minister in the Ministry of Interior; he was followed by Marcos Somarriba.

"During those early days we faced difficulties due to the lack of experience which among other things prevented us from giving proper treatment to the citizens through the police officers who were responsible for law and order; the National Directorate decided to devote special attention to the operation of the Sandinist police and assigned the tough task of correcting those difficulties to Commander Rivas.

"This body belongs to the Ministry of Interior and its current members for the most part come from the Army; we also have workers and young people with a revolutionary vocation.

"Here are the main departments: police processing, criminal and economic investigations, public safety, traffic, services and finances, and in the personnel department we take care of fighting men and their family members in order to improve social benefits, medical care, and child care.

"According to their station of assignment, our police officers can either live in the police barracks or not; since most of them have combat experience during the liberation war, the reinforced companies for the fight against the bandits are being formed from the camps.

"When the battalions are being organized, everybody wants to go out and fight and that makes it possible to keep the forces properly prepared; on the other hand, it does cause serious problems because training a soldier as a police officer takes much time."

Since we were familiar with the substantial changes taking place in a country during the revolutionary process, we simply had to ask the chief of the Sandinist Police about the most frequent crimes as well as the categories of antisocial individuals who commit those crimes.

"First of all we define anti-social elements as individuals whose conduct violates the laws and constitutes a threat to the citizens; they are the ragamuffin proletariat and they are the ones we have to fight.

"In Nicaragua, we have the highest crime rate in Managua, the capital, because that is where crimes against the economy, trafficking in foreign exchange, and traffic accidents as such are concentrated.

"I believe that the high traffic accident rate is the result of a mistaken policy which we applied in the beginning. We thought that drivers should not pay us a fine for any traffic violations; instead, police officers should stop the drivers and explain to them the dangers they expose themselves to by virtue of these violations.

"This immediately led to an increase in accidents to the point where we completely changed that policy and traffic police officers imposed fines on those who violated the laws. During the last half of 1983, we got the first indications that the number of collisions was going down.

"As a result of police action against other crimes, we cut the rate down by more than half, as shown by the statistics, although we do know that this is not only a problem for the Police. Instead, we must get all citizens involved in this crime prevention effort."

In view of the need for getting other segments of society involved in the fight against crime, the Sandinist Police organized a prevention system which calls for assistance from the revolutionary organizations. Commander Walter Ferreti analyzed this process as follows:

"We get cooperation from the Sandinist Defense Committees since the Police instituted a system of surveillance and patrols that calls for the committees and the police officers to get together. We also have a volunteer police, a body created to help in police work.

"That body is made up of people who have high prestige in the community, professional men, as well as men, women, peasants, and workers all over the country. That force was a help to us in the process of strengthening and increasing our ranks.

"Through this integration effort we achieved better results over the past 2 years."

In concluding our conversation, the commander of the revolution described the work done by the police as follows:

"They play a fundamental role in the effort to strengthen our revolutionary process, starting with the principle that we must provide peace and calm for the citizens so that we can live in freedom in order to organize and actively participate in production, in defense, and in the accomplishment of all of the other tasks demanded by the revolution, without any need to fear being stripped of one's property and belongings, plus, of course, physical safety.

"The difference that existed in the past was based on the fact that Somoza did not have a police; he had a repressive and political [National] Guard which murdered his people and supported those who were exploiting the people. During the dictatorship in Nicaragua, they would just as soon take your watch, your wallet, or your life.

"Today anybody who visits our country feels protected at any time without facing the uncertainty of being attacked in the streets.

"We want to express our appreciation for the cooperation received from the National Revolutionary Police in our process of organization because this called for the sacrifice and devotion of those men who are fighting against crime in the spirit of their people, knowing that this may even cost them their lives in the course of duty performance."

5058

CSO: 3248/658

ONR MISSION TO GRENADA RETURNS, REPORTS ON FINDINGS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 May 84 p 3

[Text] THE VISA entry requirement for Grenadians wishing to visit Trinidad and Tobago has been described as the gravest irritant in the relationship between the peoples of both countries.

This was one of the main disclosures made by an Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) fact-finding mission which returned from a one-week visit to the Spice Island Monday night.

At a Press briefing yesterday morning, members of the mission headed by the ONR's Political Leader, Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, gave news media representatives high-lights of their trip.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips, flanked by Mr. Clive Pantin, ONR's Vice-Chairman; Councillor Arthur Sanderson; Miss Annette Hosam, ONR's Women's Affairs Officer; Mr. Ronnie Ramcharran, treasurer; and Mr. Lennox Raphael, Public Relations Officer said that a member of the official Trinidad and Tobago Government mission to Grenada told him the team would leave for Grenada on June 11.

He criticised the official mission as being a low-keyed one and not one to be taken seriously because it lacked technical expertise and other vital inputs, even though he was not personally criticising members of the team headed by retired Appeal Court Judge, Ulric Cross.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips, like Mr. Pantin and Mr. Sanderson is calling for the immediate lifting of the visa requirement, countered that if Government did not want to do this, Government must have a permanent presence in Grenada by establishing a High Commission.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips said the Grenadian man-in-the-street was very bitter over the visa stipulation, but they were not bitter with the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

The ONR team said they were "treated royally" everywhere they went, including at a courtesy call on Governor General Sir Paul Scoon, who told them he was concerned about the visa issue. The Political Leader said a copy of the

mission's report on the visit would be sent to the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. George Chambers, and emphasis would be placed on the visa problem.

Mr. Pantin, a former Principal of Fatima College, said a SERVOL-type body should be established in Grenada to assist persons in the age group 17 to 26 years who, he said, were greatly affected by the high rate of unemployment.

CSO: 3298/861

TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SET FOR NOVEMBER

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 May 84 p 3

[Text] ELECTIONS and Boundaries Commission has begun preparation for the holding of elections to the Tobago House of Assembly (THA).

At a news briefing on Friday, the Commission's Chairman, Sir Isaac Hyatali, told news media personnel the elections would be held on or about November 25.

The Commission would really get its machinery going when Parliament approves the Second Report of the Commission dealing with the electoral districts in the sister island.

The report was placed on the Order Paper for Friday's meeting of the House of Representatives.

Some of the Commission's preliminary work include the establishment of four additional temporary registration centres from Tobago.

The centres will be opened initially for ten days, but if the need should present itself this period will be extended.

Sir Isaac also disclosed that in keeping with the principle laid down in the Constitution, the Commission redistributed voters in some constituencies because it was felt some of them were overloaded.

For instance, the Providence/Mason Hall district, now renamed Providence/Calder Hall, had its electoral list reduced from 2,370 to 2,312.

Also, Scarborough, renamed Scarborough/Signal Hill, was slashed from 2,718 to 2,323. The Chairman, who had with him Commission members Oswald Wilson, Simeon Alexander; Chief Elections Officers, Cecil Tyson, Public Relations Officer, Bertil Gittens and Research Officer Joycelyn Lucas, said the exercise was done on the Principle which says that as far as practical the voters should be equal in all constituencies.

Some other areas, he said, could come in for some changes too.

Following are the locations of the new temporary centres and the opening hours;

Moriah Health Centre and Speyside Community Centre; Monday, May 21 to Wednesday May 30 (Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Canaan Health Centre and Plymouth Health Centre: Friday June 1, to Sunday June 10; (Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Sir Isaac said members of the team would be paying visits to the sister island to see at first hand the operation of the centres and other facilities relative to the exercise.

Awareness Week

The Commission has also planned an election awareness week to make the electorate aware of their responsibilities as voters.

On a wider issue, the Commission's chief said very soon the Commission would be disclosing the results of the meetings held with the major political parties on electoral reform.

Stressing that they all made very important and useful suggestions, Sir Isaac, when asked if the electorate could expect any drastic changes in the electoral process, said:

"If there are drastic changes to be made we will not hesitate to make them.

"And I can assure that changes will be in the nature of improving the system and not to destroy it..."

The Commission, he added was particularly concerned about the condition of some of its offices--especially those in remote areas--but improvements would be done when the funds become available.

CSO: 3298/861

PNM STUDY GROUP RECOMMENDS CHANGES IN PROCEDURES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 May 84 p 17

[Text] THE LEGISLATIVE Group of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) should provide the opportunity both for the airing of important issues of national and local significance and for the parliamentary and local government bodies to report periodically.

This is one of the conclusions reached in the interim report of a committee appointed under the chairmanship of Councillor Stevenson Sarjeant, Mayor of Port-of-Spain to review the role and function of the Group.

The Sarjeant committee, in the three-page report, also concluded?

--That the reports from the parliamentary and local government bodies should be made on a quarterly basis.

The Agenda

--That in view of the two conclusions above, and bearing in mind the limited time for meetings, two monthly meetings of every quarter should be devoted primarily to discussion of important international, national and local issues while the third should deal essentially with quarterly reports of the Councils and the parliamentary groups.

The committee also recommended that the agenda of meetings of the group should be; a. confirmation of minutes; b. matters arising; c. announcements; d. correspondence; e. matters of importance--local, national and international; f. other business.

A section of the report stated:

"It was the committee's view that the Legislative Group needed to determine a 'mandate' for itself and that mandate should be derived from the 'mission' of the party (PNM).

"However, the original mission of the party which was 'to move the society from the status of Crown Colony Government to that of Independence and Republicanism' had been effectively serviced and therefore there was a need to re-define the mission to provide the party with a common theme out of which new directions could be fashioned.

"That new theme or mission should simply be 'towards greater self-reliance and the mandate and related functions of the Legislative Group should emanate therefrom."

Under "responsibilities," the committee felt the Group should be responsible for:

- a. Supervising and co-ordinating of the activities of all PNM members of usch bodies.
- b. Taking such steps as may be necessary to monitor the implementation of the party's manifestoes in general and local government elections.
- c. Provide training and guidance to its members as may be necessary.
- d. Promulgating the achievements of the various councils to members and the public generally.
- e. Assisting directly and effectively in all election campaigns.

CSO: 3298/861

UNION-TEXACO RIFF CONTINUES AS SECURITY CONCERNS MOUNT

Protection for Gas Tankers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 May 84 p 1

[Text] MORE THAN 100,000 gallons (450,000 litres) of petroleum products were delivered from the Pointe-a-Pierre Bond on Saturday when National Petroleum tankers, escorted by members of the protective services, began moving out gasoline and aviation fuel.

At the Bond the tankers were driven by NP drivers with Regiment and Police escort. Some of the tankers delivering in North Trinidad were driven by defence force drivers.

At several gas stations throughout the country there were "No Gas" signs throughout the morning, but after midday the situation changed as the tankers began delivering gasoline.

An official of NP confirmed yesterday that more than 100,000 gallons were delivered on Saturday.

Defence Force and Police will again escort the tankers today as deliveries continue.

The protective services became involved in the transportation of gas after Government issued an order to ensure that petroleum supplies are made available in the light of industrial unrest at the Texaco refinery.

Last week there were long lines of vehicles at gas stations when deliveries were stopped from the bond through the unrest.

'Malicious Damage' at Texaco

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 May 84 p 1

[Excerpts] TEXACO Trinidad Inc. announced yesterday that it has dismissed seven employees, including union branch officials and shop stewards for unsatisfactory conduct.

"The unsatisfied conduct for which the employees were dismissed range from malicious damage to company property to threats made to employees. These dismissals take immediate effect," the company said.

Asked for details on the dismissals, a Texaco spokesman said that the company did not normally make comments on disciplinary matters.

Meanwhile, Texaco said that a large number of workers at Pointe-a-Pierre and on the producing fields continued to take "illegal industrial action and have not as yet returned to work."

Action of the company in dismissing the workers aroused more protests by some 2,000 workers who assembled at the Pointe-a-Pierre Roundabout yesterday morning and called for their acting President General, Mr. Errol McLeod, to address them on the latest situation.

The General Council of the OWTU met yesterday afternoon and authorised the Central Executive to take all necessary measures to bring all disputes in which members of the union are at present involved to the speediest conclusion.

Mr. McLeod said after the meeting that the General Council also reaffirmed its unwavering confidence in the Central Executive of the union and expressed its admiration for the manner in which the workers remained united in the situation in respect of Texaco.

Fedchem Affected

Meanwhile the industrial unrest at Texaco, particularly at the company's Pointe-a-Pierre Refinery, has started to have adverse effects on other industries.

First major industry to be affected is the multi-million dollar Federation Chemicals Limited (FCL) plant at Point Lisas.

The company has temporarily closed down its Chemico plant and put a large number of its workforce on vacation leave. A company official, confirming this yesterday afternoon, could not state at the moment how many workers were sent on such leave.

Government Review of Labor Disputes

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 May 84 p 1

[Text] THE MINISTRY of Labour yesterday carried out a review of outstanding labour disputes in the country.

A source in the Ministry explained that Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, Mr. Errol Mahabir, was reviewing the labour disputes.

Mr Mahabir could not be contacted yesterday, but the source at the Ministry explained that the Minister was in continuous meetings with Mr. Astil Salandy,

Permanent Secretary, Dr. Zin Henry, Adviser to the Minister, Mr. Leslie Williams, Director of Labour Administration, and Mr Louis McShine Chief Labour Officer.

They were reviewing all outstanding matters before the Ministry in addition to those known to be "in the pipeline," the source said.

The Minister and his top officials were also looking at the disputes in which industrial action had already been taken. These included lockout or strike action.

Up to late yesterday they were reportedly assessing all the disputes.

The source also explained that the Minister of Labour had also been in contact with Fedchem to assess the situation there where a shortage of gas supplies had affected operations.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, the General Council of the ruling People's National Movement, meeting at Balisier House, expressed appreciation for the "prompt, calm, effective and tolerant manner" in which Government and the Ministry of Labour handled the Texaco/OWTU issue.

Charge of Marxist Agitation

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 May 84 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

IT IS unbelievable that unions representing the country's teachers, policemen, firemen, prison officers and public service employees should decide to support acts of lawlessness aimed at producing a revolutionary crisis in the country.

It is unbelievable but it is happening.

It seemed reasonable to assume that by now the vast majority of our sober and thinking population would be aware of the true motives of the leadership of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union, and the fact that the shutdown of Texaco's operations is not only the result of illegal industrial action but also represents a violent repudiation of the collective bargaining procedure and, ultimately and significantly, a calculated attempt to bring down the entire economic and political system.

DISRUPTIVE

But, frighteningly enough, this does not appear to be the case and we now have officials of the Joint Negotiating Team of Public Sector Unions coming out in strong support of the OWTU and deploring "Texaco's refusal to make a meaningful wage offer to its workers."

What makes the JNT statement so disturbing is the fact that the team is supposed to comprise some of the more responsible unions in the country.

They should certainly know better and, having regard to the category of employees they represent, one would expect that leaders of these unions would be more anxious to condemn acts of disruptive lawlessness than extending to them such categorical support.

Perhaps the stand taken by the JNT is intended more to establish its own attitude towards noises being made of a

possible wage freeze in the public sector than in offering any real solidarity to the OWTU.

In that case, the JNT should be more responsible and discerning. We feel sure there is no desire on the part of public sector unions to encourage or promote revolutionary violence and chaos in the country.

They and their members would suffer from such a state of affairs as much as the rest of the society.

But JNT representatives cannot be so naive as not to be able to appreciate the threat now being posed to the country as a whole by the Marxist-oriented leaders of the OWTU who have cunningly and methodically escalated the illegal action at Texaco into a virtual declaration of war against the private sector and the government.

We must wonder to what extent the JNT statement represents the views of members of public sector unions who must be aware that a state of national unrest is the usual means of laying the stage for a Marxist take-over bid.

At a wider level, we must also wonder to what extent our society truly understands that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

The ultimatum issued on Friday night by the OWTU

calling on all companies and government agencies to settle outstanding disputes with the entire trade union movement before Labour Day "or face the consequences" is an ominous threat that must be regarded by the Government with the utmost seriousness.

COLLISION

Clearly implied in this ultimatum is the intention of this union to instigate widespread reprisals against all companies and government bodies which fail to settle labour disputes before Labour Day.

Its covert design is to seduce the support of the labour movement in its Marxist plan to ferment confrontation, conflict and violence on a national scale, creating ideal conditions for a revolutionary take over.

We hope the Government does not intend to remain complacent in the face of such an ultimatum and such a threat.

Over a period of several months we have been warning the country about the inevitability of such an upheaval. Our country is on a collision course with well-trained Marxist agitators and the forces responsible for preserving the security of our country must be alerted and prepared.

16-Union Consultation

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 May 84 p 3

[Text]

A JOINT group of trade unions, meeting in Port of Spain Monday night has called for a consultation on industrial peace. The meeting of the 16 unions was called to discuss the current industrial situation in the country.

In a statement afterwards the unions said they recognised the legitimacy of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union's demand for a reasonable wage offer from all the

Companies in which they are involved in industrial struggle.

They suggested the following plan for industrial peace:

An immediate moratorium on retrenchment; no victimisation of trade union leaders and participants in the struggle; and a minimum increase that recognised that workers, no less than management, had the right to maintain their standard of living.

They also demanded that the OWTU be given an opportunity to present its case to the nation on television.

Representatives of the following unions took part at the meeting:

Steel Workers Association of Trinidad & Tobago; National Food-crop Farmers Associa-

tion; Council of Progressive Trade Unions; All Trinidad Sugar & General Workers Trade Union; National Farmers and Workers Union; Aviation, Communication & Allied Workers Union; Bank & General Workers Union; National Union of Government & Federated Workers; Public Services Association; Trinidad & To-

bago Unified Teachers Association; Trinidad & Tobago Council of Taxi Drivers; Transport & Industrial Workers Union; Oilfields Workers Trade Union; Brotherhood of Construction & Industrial Workers Union; Union of Commercial & Industrial Workers; Communication Workers Union.

Joint Union Declaration

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 May 84 p 11

[Text] Joint Trade Union Grouping

After a meeting on the evening of Monday May 21st, the Joint Grouping of Trade Unions, issued the following statement:

"This Joint Team of representatives of the undersigned Trade Unions recognises the legitimacy of the Oilfields Workers' Demand for a reasonable wage offer from all the Companies in which they are involved in industrial struggle.

Concerned at the deterioration in the Industrial Climate in the Country we collectively propose a plan for industrial peace, viz:—

1. *An immediate moratorium on retrenchment;*
2. *No victimisation of Trade Union leaders and participants in the struggle, and*
3. *A minimum increase that recognises that workers, no less than management, have the right to maintain their standard of living.*
4. *When there is agreement on Nos. 1, 2 and 3 above by employers, we further call for a consultation on industrial peace.*

We demand fair treatment by the Media, and in particular we demand access to Television in the Public Interest in the same way as have the Government and the Employers. Trinidad and Tobago Television is an enterprise that is financed by our money.

Finally, we demand that the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union be given an opportunity to present its case to the Nation on Television."

This Joint Trade Union Grouping is desirous of industrial peace and is of the view that real peace can only be arrived at when all workers in the country – be they public servant, oilworker, teacher, sugar worker, construction worker, essential service worker, worker in industry, bus worker, protective services workers, shop worker – be protected from the ravages of retrenchment and the reduction in their standard of living by way of inflation. Our positions are to our best judgement in the collective interest of all our members in particular and the country in general and we advance them in this spirit.

Since 1981, from which time the oil boom period is generally understood to have come to an end, many thousands of workers have been retrenched. This spate of retrenchment has been embarked upon by employers from all sectors of the economy and with a single-minded determination to use retrenchment as a first resort measure.

The Oil sector has been particularly hard hit by the plague of retrenchment, more so the servicing firms contracted to the oil principals and particularly because of Texaco's strategy, developed since 1978 of cutting back expenses and seeking tax concessions from the government while preparing to wind up operations in Trinidad and Tobago. Citizens of this country should recall the economic chaos that was engendered by similar actions by British Petroleum and Shell in the late sixties and early seventies.

Every employer in private enterprise and particularly the conglomerates have begun beating out the road-march of "recession" retrenching workers in their thousands and calling upon working people to make "downward adjustments." But we ask – How can a worker who has been retrenched after twenty-five years service suddenly having no income and a family of four 'tighten his belt!?' Our society is in fact creating criminals out of solid, upstanding citizens.

The construction sector which developed rapidly and was a major absorber of labour during the boom period, has now slowed down considerably. As in the oil sector, thousands of skilled workers are now tramping the streets seeking non-existent jobs.

One of the biggest 'retrenchers' of labour has been the

government itself. DEWD has been virtually destroyed, Ministry of Works, Agriculture, County Council and other government workers have felt the gulpin. The teaching service has not been spared. Public Servants are being retrenched through the disciplinary procedure, attrition of posts while maintaining work load and facing privatisation of public sector activity. In addition the 1984 budget which helped to the stage for the present NATIONAL CRISIS makes no mention of employment creation. What will be the future of those thousands of school-leavers who come on the job market in a few weeks time? Will they be condemned to life long joblessness?

Is it that strange then that the Joint Grouping of Trade Unions has made the call for AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON RETRENCHMENT?

All Unions and their members are faced with an economy wide negotiating position that never exceeds 25% over three years which is no way near enough to what is necessary to revert to THE 1983 STANDARD OF LIVING! And recent Industrial Court Judgements re-inforce this trend.

A brief look at some wage offers will confirm our position. Charles Mc Eneaney — 23%, Alstons Building Enterprises Limited 15%, Caribbean Packaging Industry 15%, West Indian Tobacco Co, 15%, TRACMAC 12%, Cannings 6%, Grell 6%, EIL 9%, Climate Control 9% Metal Box 5%, Pan Am Standard Brands 8%, Lever Bros. 19%, CTC Electronics 18%, Texaco 5%, Trinidad Guardian 15%, and many are offering 0%.

It is clear that the employers have decided that wage increases must be kept down to a minimum. In addition the government has decided to eat into our income by the imposition of new liabilities, further depressing 1984 average disposable income below that of 1983. In effect working people are facing much more than a wage freeze. Wage cuts stare us in the face.

The changes in tax liability of different sectors dramatically illustrate the increasing pressure being brought to bear on the working people.

Taxes on the oil companies in the period 1981-1984 fell by \$1.2b i.e from 63% to 32% of Government revenue. During the same period taxes on individuals moved from \$820m to \$1.9b i.e. from 14% to 30% of government revenue.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUT THE SQUEEZE ON WORKING PEOPLE in order to offset the loss of revenue from the oil companies and the losses incurred by State Enterprises through ill-concerned projects, inefficiency in resource management, squandermania and plain old corruption.

In addition to the growing tax liability, the State has imposed a grossly unfair health surcharge. The State has also removed subsidies on gasoline, LPG, sugar, flour, cement and many other basic necessities. Purchase tax, excise duty and import duty have been slapped on a host of other goods including building supplies. The effects of these measures result in prices increasing in geometric progression.

We must not forget that Electricity rates have risen by over 200% water and sewerage rates have risen as have telephone rates. On top of all this pressure the unscrupulous businessmen of the Private Sector raise prices every Monday morning. How much more adjustment do the powers that be expect workers to make? Additionally a fact that civil servants and teachers should note well is that the 1984 budget made no provision under current expenditure for wage and salary increases.

The employers are saying that workers are highly paid. But what are the facts? An 'A' class oil worker, presently receives \$14.00 per hour or \$520.00 per week or \$2,080.00 per month. He pays \$600.00 in taxes, probably \$800.00 in rent, \$150.00 in pension plan and NIS deductions. He is therefore left with \$500.00 to buy food, clothes, school-books, pay for transport etc. The 'well paid' worker is presently earning 'minus money.' We shudder to think what is happening to our brothers and sisters at the end of the line.

Tracmac (Neal & Massy) has offered its locked out workers 40 cents per hour increase for the top grades and 23 cents for its lowest grade. This works out to be \$16.00 per week and \$9.20 per week respectively. But workers have to pay \$8.25 per week in health surcharge and price increases continue to gallop.

The Joint Trade Union Grouping understands that the action taken by thousands of workers over the past few weeks is to preserve jobs and to ensure that their standard of living is not reduced. We recognise that at this time when the employers are united in strategies which will impose hardships on all working people the only response that can be made to protect our members is for unions to collectively deal with the issues. No one group

of workers, no one union can resolve the problems which are common to all workers and all Unions. A 5% at Texaco, or a 12% at Tracmac will mean 5% or 12% for teachers, civil servants, sugar workers, bank-workers, prison officers, police officers, postmen, telephone workers, hotel workers, fire officers, construction workers, workers in industry, in shops, at T&TEC, Textel etc., while continuing retrenchment in 'any' one industry or sector undermines the job security of all working people. Indeed it is one movement, one struggle!

The Joint Trade Union Grouping therefore invites all working people in the country in defence of your own interests to support the proposals for industrial peace:

1. An immediate moratorium on retrenchment;
2. No victimisation of Trade Union leaders and participants in the struggle, and
3. A minimum increase that recognises that workers, no less than management, have the right to maintain their standard of living.
4. When there is agreement on Nos. 1, 2 and 3 above by employers, we further call for a consultation on industrial peace.

Use of Riot Squad

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 May 84 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] TEXACO Trinidad Inc. reported yesterday that there has been a noticeable improvement in the attendance of employees. The company observed the improvement yesterday morning as it confirmed that there was no "blockade" at the gates at Pointe-a-Pierre but went on to state that intimidation continued.

The Oilfields Workers Trade Union, through a Pointe-a-Pierre branch officer, has denied that workers were intimidating others who wanted to return to work.

And as the labour unrest continues, the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery, up to yesterday, continued to operate at an average of 60,000 barrels a day. That means that the company has sufficient gasoline to supply the local market.

Attention was focused yesterday morning on the presence of riot squad policemen who took up positions at the Pointe-a-Pierre Roundabout and other areas. They did not go into action.

The Riot Squad was called in following certain reports by the company.

Texaco reported on Tuesday that a large number of employees had indicated that they wanted to return to work but were being intimidated by the presence of pickets at the gates. The company statement added that certain acts of "unsatisfactory conduct by employees which may lead to further disciplinary action are currently being investigated."

Last Monday the company dismissed even employees, among them union branch officers and shop stewards.

Gasoline continued to be sent out from the Pointe-a-Pierre Bond under police escort. The situation at filling stations in San Fernando in particular, improved considerably throughout yesterday and there was no more rush for the product by motorists.

Meanwhile, the OWTU says it is standing by "day and night," ready to meet with Texaco and the Minister of Labour in an attempt to settle the current dispute.

Mr Errol McLeod, acting President General addressed the workers yesterday morning at the company's Forest Reserve field and told them that 16 trade unions in the country were supporting them in the struggle.

Mr McLeod said that police in the area were very co-operative and they were sort of "relating with the workers" since they too believed that improvement of their own conditions depended on what the union could extract from oil.

Questioned about reports of rampage by workers at Forest Reserve resulting in damage to motor cars, Mr McLeod said he investigated the report and found them to be untrue.

Gas Company Lockout

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 May 84 p 1

[Text] An islandwide shortage of cooking gas is likely following the lockout of workers at Consumer Gas Supplies Limited at Sea Lots, San Fernando and North Plant on the Princess Margaret Highway.

The lock-out was instituted on Wednesday at San Fernando and the North Plant but Sea Lots workers were the last to go on Thursday. This plant is the largest supplier of gas in the country.

According to the Oilfields Workers Trade Union, which represents the 85 plus workers affected, the action came following months of protest and pleas by workers for the company to "meet and treat" with them.

Union officer Gregory Rousseau said the workers wanted to discuss a number of outstanding issues with the company, particularly the unsafe conditions under which they were working, but the company continually failed to turn up for arranged meetings or refused entirely to meet with them.

He said they had problems with safety at the plants for years but the situation had escalated over the past few months. Workers started wearing red armbands, he said, and gave the company an ultimatum of meeting with them or some sort of action would be taken. The decision was taken from their hands when they were locked out by the company.

The union officer said they were still willing to meet with the company but noted that at a last meeting arranged for Tuesday of this week the company again did not turn up.

The Company was not available for comment yesterday and information promised by a spokesman for National Petroleum was never received.

Ministry Intervention

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 May 84 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] MINISTER of Labour, Social Security and Cooperatives has formally intervened in the Texaco-Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) dispute and has taken action under the Industrial Relations Act.

Quoting Section 56(1) and (2) of the IRA, he advised both the union and the company that he was intervening in the current dispute following the breakdown in negotiations for a new collective agreement.

His action, he explained was now "deemed to have been reported to me" under provisions of Sections 51(1) of the act.

Yesterday morning both the union and the company met the Minister at his offices at Riverside Plaza, before Mr. Mahabir went to the regular weekly Cabinet meeting.

Commenting yesterday, Minister Mahabir said that he could no longer leave the matter to be dealt with at the bilateral level since he had a responsibility, not only to the company and the workers, but more particularly to the national community to have the issues resolved.

In the circumstances, he said, he was formally intervening.

Mr. Mahabir said he called on both parties to supply him immediately with copies of the proposals and counter-proposals for a new industrial agreement.

He said, too, that he had also requested the company to supply him with a list of the names of persons who had been dismissed and details of the incidents which led to their dismissals.

Among conditions discussed yesterday was a call by the union for a reasonable wage offer, with the company responding that it was prepared to resume negotiations and increase the five per cent wage offer.

In response to enquiries, a Texaco spokesman confirmed that at the request of the Minister, company representatives and O.W.T.U. officials met with Mr. Mahabir yesterday morning.

The Minister had called the parties together in an effort to find a formula for a return to normalcy in the company's operations.

The union's position was that bilateral talks with the company could resume and a return to normalcy in the company's operations could be achieved only under the following four conditions:

- (1) That the Company make a reasonable wage offer;
- (2) Withdrawal of all dismissals of employees;
- (3) A guarantee that there would be no further dismissals of union officials or workers generally;
- (4) That there be a moratorium on retrenchment.

Company's Response

The company responded to the union's position as follows:

(1) The company is prepared to resume negotiations and to consider increasing the 5 per cent wage offer commensurate with improvements in efficiency which have been proposed for the new Agreement.

(2) The company is not prepared to withdraw disciplinary action already taken against employees for unsatisfactory conduct. The company however, undertook to expedite the grievance procedure in respect to union appeals for reinstatement of these employees. The company also undertook that in deference to the Minister's wishes it would not proceed at this time with the additional disciplinary action already prepared for issue to several employees.

The company's undertakings are contingent upon:

- (a) A return to work by all employees engaged in illegal industrial action.
- (b) A return to normalcy in the company's operations.
- (c) compensation for damages suffered by employees resulting from malicious acts which have occurred during their illegal industrial action.

The Minister thereafter formally intervened in the dispute between the parties in accordance with Section 56 (1 & 2) of the I.R.A. and has scheduled a meeting between the parties at his offices at 2 p.m. Monday, May 28.

In response to further media enquiries a Texaco spokesman said that since the Minister of Labour had now taken the wage negotiations into conciliation under the I.R.A., the company would expect all employees to return to their respective jobs.

Bombing Incident

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 84 p 1

[Text] SAN FERNANDO: TWO home-made bombs were thrown at the home of a senior staff employee of Texaco Trinidad Inc. around 3.30 a.m. yesterday.

One of the bombs, crashed through the sliding glass door in front of the house and landed in a room. Fire resulted and the owner quickly put out the blaze.

The worker lives at Retrench Fillage, South Trinidad. San Fernando Police were called in and they took possession of certain exhibits.

The worker in question told the "Guardian" yesterday afternoon that he was awoken by an explosion. His 18-year-old son called out, "Daddy, Daddy, get up. Fire." He said when he went into the room he saw the carpet, walls and ceiling on fire. He quickly put out the blaze. Damage was estimated at more than \$3,000.

He said he had no quarrel with anyone and condemned the attack on his house. Earlier this week Police were also called in to investigate another report of "home-made" bomb throwing at the Marabella home of a supervisor employed with Texaco.

OWTU on Workers' Options

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 84 p 3

[Text] SAN FERNANDO: THERE is no compulsion for the Texaco workers to report back to work under the particular section of the Industrial Relations Act (IRA) quoted by the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives Mr Errol Mahabir, when he intervened in the dispute. Between the company and the Oilfields Workers Trade Union.

This was stated yesterday by Mr Errol McLeod, acting President General of OWTU. He said if the Minister had intervened under Section 65, as he did two years ago in the dispute with workers at Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission, it would have been a different matter. Mr. McLeod said he was simply clearing the air to let the workers know the situation.

The minister intervened in the Texaco OWTU dispute under Section 56 (1 and 2) and advised both union and company that he was intervening in the current dispute following a breakdown in negotiations for a new industrial agreement.

Meanwhile the OWTU Central Executive met in its statutory session yesterday at Paramount Building, Circular Road, San Fernando, and endorsed the four point peace plan forwarded by the public service sector unions.

The executive also endorsed the decision of the General Council to have the executive take all necessary measures to bring all disputes in which members of the union are at present involved to the speediest conclusion.

On the other hand, a report reaching the OWTU yesterday stated that Texaco had shut down its No. 8 topping plant, the second largest distillation unit after the giant cracker.

Mr McLeod said that the information reaching the union stated that the plant was shut down on Thursday night.

Contracted on the matter Texaco denied the plant was shut down. The company said that the No. 8 topping plant was in operation processing about 60,000 barrels of crude a day.

A check revealed that the cat cracker which was taken down for test and inspection is still down.

Meanwhile Texaco said that workers were reporting back to work but this was denied by the OWTU.

Wage-Increase Demand

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 May 84 p 1

[Text] THE OILFIELDS Workers' Trade Union is prepared to accept nothing less than 25 per cent in the first year as a reasonable wage increase for workers of Texaco (Trinidad) Incorporated.

This stand was taken by the union's General Council, on Saturday following an appeal to Texaco to make a reasonable pay rise offer.

The stand was also based on the position adopted by the Joint Trade Union Grouping that there should be no reduction in the workers' standard of living over the next three years.

The OWTU also called for a moratorium on retrenchment.

The union branded as "ridiculous" conditions set out by Texaco in calling on the union to pay for damage done during the period of protest by workers.

A release issued by acting President General Errol McLeod said it was obvious that Texaco had thrown down the gauntlet and was not really interested in assisting in the resolution of the crisis.

The union's position as endorsed by the General Council is that dismissals must be withdrawn as normalcy could not be agreed upon if those who made sacrifices in defence of their fellow workers and their country were victimised.

TWO-MONTH TRADE TOTALS, IMPORT, EXPORT FIGURES REPORTED

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 May 84 p 15

[Text] TRINIDAD and Tobago recorded an adverse visible balance of trade of \$25.4 million for the first two months of this year. According to data released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO), during January and February goods totalling \$709 million were imported. Exports amounted to \$683.6 million with \$667.2 million of this representing domestic exports.

However during February, a favourable balance of trade in \$75.8 million was recorded. Exports were worth \$417.4 million while imported goods were valued at \$341.6 million.

In the corresponding month last year there was a favourable balance of \$205.5 million.

A detailed analysis of the figures show that petroleum accounted for 0.3 per cent of total imports and 79 per cent of total imports for January and February 1984. Excluding petroleum, imports were \$706.5 million and exports \$141.7 million.

Decreased Imports

The value of imports under the Caricom agreement for the period was \$48.7 million or seven per cent of total imports. Domestic exports totalled \$10.7 million or two per cent of total domestic exports.

These figures when compared with those recorded for the same period last year show that Caricom imports decreased by \$25.3 million and domestic exports by \$13.4 million.

Principal commodities imported during the period were cereal and cereal preparations \$39 million; fruits and vegetables \$25 million; dairy products and eggs \$27.7 million; meat and meat preparations \$20.9 million and feeding stuff for animals \$15.8 million.

Major items of export were sugar and sugar preparations \$8.2 million; coffee, tea, cocoa, spices \$3.2 million; cereal and cereal preparations \$1 million. This was two percent of total exports. Barbados was the main source of imports from Caricom sources and absorbed most of our total domestic exports.

GOVERNMENT CONCERNED OVER TRADE IMBALANCE WITH CANADA

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 May 84 p 4

[Text] A GOVERNMENT Minister has spoken of the trade imbalance between Trinidad and Tobago and Canada.

Mr Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives made the observation on Saturday while delivering the feature address at the formal launching of the \$80 million industrial complex by the Aziz Ahamad Group of Companies at Lange Park, Chaguanas.

He said that the present trading relations weighed heavily against Trinidad and Tobago, and felt that the time had come for the Canadian authorities and businessmen to take a serious look at the situation. "We too have goods to sell to increase exports beyond the Caricom area", he added.

The 55,000 square feet retail outlet and warehouse will be known as "Stop 'n Shop". The two-storey project is being undertaken in cooperation with Canadian Tire, an international chain of stores with hundreds of outlets on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mr Mahabir announced that Government would hand out 499 houses and 1,400 lots to prospective home owners in the Chaguanas area shortly, and in the same vein stated that Prime Minister George Chambers will on Saturday inaugurate a private housing scheme in Chaguanas.

He charged the private sector with the responsibility to help mobilise the economic and social forces to the total benefit of Trinidad and Tobago. This responsibility, he stated, would help to generate new employment opportunities and finances.

Face Realities

Mr Mahabir stated that this approach must hold prominence in order to offset any period of economic conflict. The people of Trinidad and Tobago had to face the realities of the world economic conditions. "It is no secret that the world economic condition has had its impact on Trinidad and Tobago," he said.

Mr Mahabir stated that it was against this unstable world situation "the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago must move forward with a strong commitment to succeed despite adverse world conditions."

"We must act decisively as we assess the peculiar economic conditions and decide what's best for us here", he added.

The large assembly which included President Ellis Clarke, Mr John Croley, Vice-President, Marketing of Canadian Tire; Mr John Donaldson, Minister of National Security; Mr Winston Dookeran, Member of Parliament for Chaguanas; Senator Dr Sahadeo Basdeo, Mr James Bassett, Canadian High Commissioner; Mr Ramesh Tiwary and Mr Motilal Moonan, were told by the Minister that Trinidad and Tobago could not sit idly by and allow things to happen.

Former Chief Justice Sir Isaac Hayatali, who chaired the evening's proceedings, said that the project would become another milestone in the Chaguanas area.

Mr Croley called for the use of local inputs as much as possible in order to reduce the trade imbalance between the two countries.

CSO: 3298/863

UNIONS SEEK UNITY, WAGE HIKES; ARE HIT FOR 'INSIDIOUS PLANS'

OWTU Alarm, Warning on Disputes

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 27 Apr 84 p 64

[Text] THE OILFIELD Workers Trade Union has said it is alarmed at the deteriorating state of industrial relations along the East-West corridor.

It has also warned employers that the situation could lead to a series of disputes which will affect the country.

At a press conference at the OWTU House of the People in Port of Spain yesterday, Cecil Paul, second vice-president said the union was currently involved in several disputes with companies along the East-West corridor (which extends from Carenage to Arima) and that employers were using retrenchment as a threat to force sub-standard conditions and wages on employees.

Paul, who is also General Secretary of the Council of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU) said that a survey of the period December 1982 to August 1983 showed that 60,000 workers had been retrenched.

Among the companies which the union has been negotiating with, Paul said that 40 workers at McEneaney Company Ltd were retrenched without prior consultation with the union and this was done to force a 23.5 per cent increase over three years on the workers.

The workers were locked out last Tuesday.

At Colgate Pamolive, Paul said, the company had locked out some of the workers and had dismissed a shop steward during negotiations for a new wage contract.

Paul also said that the union had referred two negotiations involving Bermudez Company Ltd to the Industrial Court because of the company's refusal to meet with the union.

At Caribbean packaging Industries (CPI) Paul said the company has offered a wage increase of 15 per cent over three years, had closed down its night shift and retrenched four workers.

The union is also involved in disputes with Lever Brothers Company Ltd., Metal Box Company Ltd, where Paul said 50 workers had been retrenched and 50 more faced retrenchment, Trinidad and Tobago Printing and Packaging Industries, where 54 workers were retrenched and Trinidad Food Products.

Rally Participants

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 1 May 84 p. 3

[Text]

TWENTY-NINE trade unions will participate in the May Day Rally today.

It will be the first time in recent history that the trade union movement will be jointly celebrating International Solidarity Day of Labour.

It will also be the third time in four months that the Joint Trade Union Grouping will be sharing a common platform, the other occasions being at the Rienzi Complex in January and at the Tradeport and Industrial Workers Union (IWI) Hall in February when labour unity and some problems facing labour were discussed.

Representing some 300,000 workers, about 60 to 70 per cent of the present workforce, the trade unions will look at "The need for labour unity", "The employers'

view against the working class", "Retrenchment", "The special problems of women in the workplace" and "The historical importance of May 1".

The rally takes place against a background of increasing retrenchments and an increase in strikes and lockouts in the past few months.

More than 800 workers represented by the Joint Trade Union Grouping and General Workers Union (GWU) on the one hand and the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Union (SWWTU) on the other, are expected to attend.

At present, the General Workers Union (GWU) and the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Union (SWWTU) have been in the middle of negotiating new wage contracts and workers at McEneaney have been locked out.

The Oilfield Workers

Trade Union (OWTU) last week called a press conference to express alarm at the deteriorating state of industrial relations along the East West Corridor where several companies have been negotiating for new wage contracts.

At today's rally, leaders of each of the unions represented will speak on one of the issues. Workers have been urged by their unions to wear red arm bands as a mark of solidarity with workers who have been retrenched or involved in industrial disputes.

They have also urged workers who found it difficult to obtain time off, to join the rally after work.

The rally takes place at the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Trade Union (SWWTU) Hall, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain from 2 p.m.

May Day Discussion

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 1 May 84 p. 1

[Article by Irma Rambaran]

[Text] **PRESIDENT** of the Bank and General Workers Trade Union (BGWU), Michael Als, yesterday accused "political elements" in the trade union

movement for the unfavourable reception which he received at the May Day rally organised by the Joint Trade Union Grouping.

Around 4 p.m. yesterday, union chairman

Dr Ralph Henry announced that Als would be the next speaker on the agenda, there were repeated shouts of "No way".

Dr Henry attempted to pacify the members of the audience by stating that whatever the political differences, Als was

invited to speak as a worker but this was met with more "booing" from the audience.

Als' ten-minute speech, which attempted to outline the BGWU's eight points for trade union unification, was punctuated with "boos" and shouts and much of the speech was drowned out in the jeering.

Speaking with the EXPRESS after his address, Als said his union noticed that one section of the packed hall was conducting the jeering and they appeared to be members of the Committee for Labour Solidarity (CLS).

He added: "They were just attempting to gain political mileage and it was disgusting to most of the workers on a day like today. It is of no concern to us in any way. We feel that all unions must take up the offer of the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress to come into one trade union."

Als' unification stand was one taken up by

leaders of the 20-odd trade unions which turned out at the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Trade Union (SWWTU) Hall on Wrightson Road, Port of Spain.

The unions noted that the movement had been divided but the current spate of retrenchment, increasing cost of living and the deteriorating state of industrial relations called for a united stand by all trade unions.

They said that employers appeared to have taken a united stand in imposing a wage freeze and retrenchment on workers and endorsed Dr Henry's call for a "conglomerate of the working class".

Clive Nunez, President of the Transport and Industrial Workers Union (TIWU) said yesterday's rally was the beginning of unity between workers and leaders of the various trade unions.

He also noted that

although it was the largest May Day rally in the past 12 to 15 years, there was need for more to be done before trade union unity was achieved.

Brotherhood of Construction and General Workers Trade Union's President, William Rampersad, said his union was not happy with the "handful" of workers which turned out at the rally and the time had come for workers to show their strength.

Among the speakers of yesterday's rally were Subash Panday, research officer of the All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union, Wayne Edwards of the Communications Workers Union (CWU), Paul Harrison of the Aviation Communication and Allied Workers Union (ACAWU), Dr Kenrick Rennie of the Public Services Association (PSA) and Errol McLeod, acting President of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU).

Union Unification Efforts

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 5 May 84 p 7

[Text] A RESOLUTION calling for all trade unions to form one body has been sent to the executives of the unions for discussion.

According to Francis Mungroo, general secretary of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Trade Union (SWWTU) who chaired the May Day rally organised by

the Joint Trade Union Grouping, a resolution was proposed calling for the unions to join Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress.

The resolution was made on the invitation of Vernon Glean to dissolve the present administration of Congress and hold fresh elections.

Acting President of

the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) Errol McLeod, noted that since the resolution had not been discussed with the executives nor the membership of the various unions, the decision to join the Labour Congress should not be made immediately.

It was also proposed that in view of mass retrenchment and meagre wages the trade unions should meet shortly.

Speaking with the EXPRESS yesterday, McLeod said that one union, the Bank and General Workers Union (BGWU) came with a resolution that all unions should join the Labour Congress but the OWTU did not know whether they had been given such

a mandate by the rank and file membership.

He added: "We could not have said yes or no without considering the rank and file".

McLeod said: "The OWTU has always stood up for unity of the labour movement. But that unity must not be on the basis arrived at between leaders of the union but the rank and file of working class."

Asked about the BGWU's claim that members of the Committee for Labour Solidarity (CLS) were responsible for the unfavourable reception of its leader Micheal Als, McLeod said: "I don't know where he got that information from but we were able to witness that the majority of people on the floor were participating."

'One Union' Slogan

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 May 84 p 1

[Article by Irma Rambaran]

[Text]

MEMBERS of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union who are involved in the current impasse with Texaco Trinidad Incorporated yesterday adopted the slogan "One union—one struggle," adding a new twist to the dispute.

The workers at Texaco are calling for settlement of all the industrial disputes involving their union and various companies as a precondition to a return to normalcy at Texaco.

This was the position put forward by Errol McLeod, acting president-general of the union, during a news conference at OWTU headquarters in San Fernando yesterday, after the crisis at Texaco escalated into an almost total shutdown of the company's operations across south Trinidad.

McLeod told reporters at the Paramount Building that the workers had told the leadership of the union on Tuesday that they were not prepared to accept a partial offer.

He said the workers were also calling for settlements of all disputes, including those involving Lever Brothers Company Ltd., Dunlop Trinidad Ltd., and McEneaney Company Ltd, and had adopted the slogan: "One union—one struggle."

McLeod insisted that industrial action at Point-a-Pierre was not inspired by the leadership of the union but by the workers who were protesting Texaco's presence in the country.

McLeod also said he had spoken to Labour Minister Errol Mahabir who had expressed concern over the developments and said he was prepared to act in a conciliatory capacity so work at Texaco could be resumed.

He added: "We are prepared to meet at any time with Texaco."

Asked if he felt the present shortfall of gasoline at service stations could lead to intervention by the Ministry of National Security, McLeod replied: "We are hoping that the government will not use the regiment or armed forces. That will alienate them from the people. There must be a stand of Trinidad and Tobago against Texaco."

McLeod also said that his union had called for a complete take-over of Texaco's operations in this country and not just the Point-a-Pierre refinery.

Meanwhile, the Joint Negotiating Team comprising six unions representing workers in the public sector, yesterday accused Texaco of "provoking a confrontation calculated to embarrass the Government of Trinidad and Tobago"

In a release signed by representatives of the unions, the team said it deplored the company's refusal to make a meaningful wage offer to its workers.

It added: "We denounce the total negation of collective bargaining implied in Texaco's initial refusal to make any offer, and in the subsequent grudging offer, under duress from the Minister of Labour, of five per cent."

The team called on the company to meet and treat with the OWTU in the proper context of collective bargaining.

Early reports yesterday that the police and the regiment had been put on alert as a result of the situation at Texaco could not be verified. Reports from the St Margaret's police station, near Pointe-a-Pierre, said that a few policemen had been detailed to supervise the maintenance of law and order in the normal course of events.

Action at Texaco

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 May 84 p 1

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text]

A WALKOUT by several hundred workers at Texaco Trinidad Incorporated yesterday forced the total shut-

down of at least three of the company's fields and crippled operations at Pointe-a-Pierre and Forest Reserve.

Fears arose also that the protest action by the Texaco workers may spread to other south-based oil companies such as Trintoc, Trinidad-Tesoro and Trinmar in a possible move at solidarity among workers in the oil industry.

Oilfields Workers Trade Union acting president-general Errol McCleod made it clear at a news conference yesterday at Paramount Building that the union could not prevent aggrieved workers in other industries such as TTEC and the oil companies from taking action to resolve problems. Hints of a long industrial struggle came when McCleod said that workers had pegged the settlement of the Texaco issue to the resolving of industrial disputes with companies not connected with the Texaco matter. McCleod said that this was what the workers wanted.

A report, confirmed by Texaco officials, said that about 400 maintenance workers at Pointe-a-Pierre marched to the company's bond and waterfront areas and occupied it. Texaco officials said also that the workers were illegally occupying the bond and that they were preventing tank wagons from leaving the gates.

This action further inflamed the uneasy gas-supply situation in San Fernando and surrounding areas.

From early morning the workers at the welding shop, maintenance department, the electrical department, and other shops had downed tools and remained idle. Workers who went to take up the night shift on Tuesday were not permitted to do so by guard workers. They left. Later they were joined by the clerical staff. It was also reported that some workers from the administration building who were reluctant to join the protest group had been threatened. They left the job and went home, the report said. Only the shipping and transport sections at Pointe-a-Pierre have been working. The workers' action has crippled operations there. A late report received from a Texaco spokesman said that some accounts department workers had trickled back to work but remained idle on the job.

About 300 workers at Guayaguayare downed tools to protest the company's wage offer of 5 per cent in the first year. They were joined by about 180 workers at Barrackpore who left the company's compounds and assembled in a nearby playing field.

The company issued a circular late yesterday urging workers to return to their jobs or face the consequences.

The circular read, "Since Monday, May 7, 1984, a number of employees at Pointe-a-Pierre have been withholding their labour and taking part in illegal industrial action. On Monday, May 14, 1984, employees at Barrackpore and Brighton joined their colleagues at Pointe-a-Pierre in participating in illegal industrial action."

The circular continued, "The company has met with the executive of the OWTU in an effort to achieve an early resumption of normalcy in our operations. At a meeting between the parties held at the Paramount Building on Sunday, May 13, 1984, it was confirmed by the union that the employees were withholding their labour in protest against the company's failure to make a wage offer in the negotiations." The statement added, "At the request of the honourable Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, a meeting was held at Riverside Plaza, Port of Spain, yesterday, May 15, 1984." In an effort to resolve the impasse, the company made a wage offer of 5 per cent in the first year.

The union's response was that the workers would be advised of the company's offer, however it would be for the workers to decide whether there would be a return to normalcy.

The circular added, "This morning, Wednesday, May 16, 1984, no work is being performed at Barrackpore, Brighton and Guayaguayare and the workers primarily in the maintenance departments and at the cracker shut-down continue to withhold their labour. The company wishes once more to advise the employees who are participating in this illegal industrial action to resume work and to perform their duties normally. Failing this the company will be left with no choice but to take appropriate action."

Government Reaction

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 May 84 p 40

[Text]

Labour Minister Errol Mahabir last night criticised Oilfields Workers Trade Union acting president Errol McLeod for seeking to peg a settlement of the worsening crisis at Texaco Trinidad Incorporated with the settlements of all existing disputes with the OWTU and other companies.

At a news conference held at the OWTU headquarters in San Fernando yesterday, McLeod said Texaco workers had agreed that a settlement of the dispute must include the settlement of all other disputes in which the union is currently engaged.

He said the workers were demanding this course of action and since the OWTU was a democratic union it had no choice but to accede to the wishes of the workers.

Commenting on the position by the OWTU, Mahabir declared: "I cannot believe that a responsible union leader would even say this."

Mahabir said that this position will involve settlement of industrial disputes with as many as seven separate companies. The OWTU is currently engaged

in industrial disputes with Lever Brothers, Charles McEneaney and Company, Dunlop and several other companies.

During the news conference McLeod said that the Texaco workers were not prepared to accept a partial settlement but wanted a full settlement in a three year wage contract.

McLeod noted that this demand was made even though Mahabir had indicated that the corporate structure of the company was likely to change before the end of the year.

Last night Mahabir insisted that under the Industrial Relations Act he had several courses of action to pursue in order to bring a settlement.

Mahabir said: "I have already indicated to both parties that they should agree on a date to begin discussions. Frankly I hope I would not have to invoke these powers and that good sense will prevail."

Mahabir denied an earlier report that he threatened to take "drastic action" in the matter. He told the EXPRESS late last night he advised the union it was better for the matter not to get out of his hands.

Union Position

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 May 84 p 1

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

THE OILFIELDS Workers' Trade Union has developed a slogan, "One union, one struggle," meaning that a campaign will be on to have all outstanding matters, wherever the union has representation, settled before normalcy could return in current disputes involving the workers.

This was stated yesterday afternoon by Mr. Errol McLeod, acting President General of OWTU, at a news conference held at Paramount Building, San Fernando.

Referring to the dispute with Texaco Trinidad Inc., Mr. McLeod said the union was willing to meet with the Minister of Labour, Mr. Errol Mahabir, to have the matter resolved. He said he spoke to the Minister yesterday by "phone" and the Minister informed him that he was prepared to intervene in a conciliatory capacity to have a resumption of work at the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery.

Questioned about the company's report that tank wagons were being sent back at the Pointe-a-Pierre Bond, Mr. McLeod said he was unaware of that situation.

Asked about the occupation of the Bond by the workers, Mr. McLeod said the workers were demonstrating their dissatisfaction over the

company's wage offer of five per cent for the first year of the first year of the proposed three year industrial contract.

He said the workers were calling for complete settlement of all outstanding matters and did not want a partial settlement. He said the union would have to examine carefully whatever Texaco was saying.

However, Mr. McLeod admitted that from reports reaching the union no work was being done at the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery and there was a shutdown of operations at Guayaguayare, Forest Reserve, Barrackpore and Brighton. He could not state at the moment how many workers were involved.

He said the workers did not only want a reasonable offer; they wanted an acceptable wage offer.

'NOT TO PANIC'

Asked whether the workers at Trintoc, Trinmar and Tesoro would join the protest action in support, Mr. McLeod said the union intended shortly to hold a meeting with those workers. One thing, Mr. McLeod said, the workers assured the union that they did not intend to put the citizens of this country into any hardship.

His advice to the public was not to panic. He said: "We are making

every effort to have the situation at Texaco resolved." He said, too, that he was in touch with President General of OWTU, Mr. George Weekes yesterday morning and spoke to him and reported the present situation.

Mr. McLeod said also that the union suggested to the Minister of Labour earlier this week that he should set up meeting with the various companies and the union

aimed at resolving the disputes.

Referring to the Texaco problem in particular, Mr. McLeod said: "We are hoping that Government will not use the Regiment or any other sections of the armed forces to assist in sending out petroleum products from the bonds."

He said the army people were citizens of this country and they should not be used against their own nationals.

Rejection of Steel Offer

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 May 84 p 3

[Text] THE OILFIELDS Workers Trade Union has reportedly refused to accept a 20 per cent wage increase for workers at Caribbean Steel Mills although the employees are willing to accept the offer.

According to a reliable source close to the Company, the workers told the company and the Minister of Labour, where the matter went for conciliation, that they were willing to accept 20 per cent over three years wage offer but the union refused this.

The Union reportedly told the company and the Ministry that it could not accept the offer since it was fighting similar offers from other companies, one case being Lever Brothers where workers took strike action. The union would apparently "lose face" by accepting the offer from Caribbean Steel Mills.

The company gave notice of lockout on Tuesday. A company observer described the situation as "a sham and futile comedy."

Destabilization Plan

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 May 84 p 8

[Text] THE ANTICS of the Marxist leaders of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union now clearly reveal that they have embarked upon a concerted and well-orchestrated plan to create a national crisis in the country.

We think it is our duty to warn our citizens accordingly and to call upon all responsible and patriotic workers to repudiate and reject this insidious effort to destabilise the system, to bring the economy to a chaotic halt and to inflict untold hardships on our people.

We would also suggest an early intervention by the Government to forestall the disruptive intent of illegal indus-

trial action already taken by the OWTU and to serve as a warning to other members who may be inclined to support the union in escalating the issue.

SEVERING

The seriousness of the situation became obvious yesterday when workers brought the operations of Texaco to a standstill while Mr. Errol McLeod, OWTU's acting President General, blandly assured that his union would not put citizens to any hardships and that every effort was being made to have the situation at Texaco resolved.

Most critically, workers occupied the refinery bond at

Pointe-a-Pierre preventing NP tankers from entering and, therefore, effectively severing the supply of gasoline to the rest of the country.

Apparently not satisfied with that action, the OWTU we understand is now making efforts to bring out its members employed by Amoco contractors in an obvious attempt to shut down the T&TEC gas supply with the obvious intention of causing an island-wide power outage.

The OWTU revealed its ruthless strategy yesterday when McLeod explained the bizarre meaning behind the "one union, one struggle" slogan which it had adopted.

After engaging in a variety of disputes with almost every organisation, whether private or State-owned, where it represents workers, the Union has now decided to consider them all as one.

Together with the slogan, according to McLeod, a campaign has been launched to have "all outstanding matters wherever the union has representation" settled before a state of normalcy is returned.

In full obedience to his fraudulent Marxist creed, McLeod seeks to engender among members of his union a besieged mentality, the idea of "we against them," to win their support in his plan to create a state of revolutionary chaos in the country.

Only that objective can possibly explain the totally ridiculous idea of such a campaign. The OWTU, then, is quite prepared to hold the whole country to ransom not simply for what it wants from Texaco but also for its demands from the ten or so other organisations with which it is now in some dispute.

Surely this union cannot be allowed to get away with that kind of brutality, that kind of callous disregard for the public welfare and the national interest simply because it controls workers engaged in key industries in the country.

What makes the situation even more disturbing, we understand, is the unrest within the OWTU

hierarchy, the result of a struggle for power between McLeod and his close ally David Abdullah on the one hand and a less radical faction led by second vice president Cécil Paul on the other, in the absence and anticipated retirement of president general George Weekes.

The present confrontational thrust of the union is apparently the way that McLeod and Abdullah have chosen to demonstrate their leadership qualities.

Their intent, of course, is to ignite a national conflagration by sparking off the trouble at Texaco. The industrial action being taken at Pointe-a-Pierre is quite illegal, a serious infringement of collective bargaining procedure since negotiations with the Company have been proceeding for some time and have not even been referred to the Ministry of Labour for conciliation.

RIDICULOUS

Mr. Mahabir's meeting with the parties on Monday was a voluntary and laudable effort on his part to bring negotiations back on rail and to push it along after Monday's protest at the refinery bond.

But instead of resuming discussions following Texaco's offer, the union has simply declared its rejection and proceeded to close down the company's operations.

And now McLeod has calmly trotted out his ridiculous slogan about "one union, one dispute."

We hope that the truth of our warning about the hidden design of Marxist-oriented unions such as the OWTU is beginning to dawn upon our workers and our people.

We repeat that the crisis now upon us is nothing but a brazen attempt to use a section of the labour movement for the creation of revolutionary chaos, its basic purpose has nothing to do with job security, the welfare of workers or the stability and progress of our country.

The present horrors of Afghanistan and the recent nightmare of Grenada tell us we must reject it.

Texaco, Amoco Disruptions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 May 84 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

THE SITUATION at Texaco Trinidad Inc. deteriorated yesterday afternoon. No petroleum products had left the Pointe-a-Pierre bond for the day. Drilling is also at a standstill.

Instead of supplies coming out, several hundred workers held a mid-day meeting at the bond calling on the company to settle the current wage negotiations with their union the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union.

Again and again they rejected the company's five per cent wage offer for the first year. The OWTU is demanding 40 per cent for the first year, and that was the last position of the parties when they met with the Minister of Labour, Mr. Errol Mahabir, earlier this week.

The unrest has spread to the company's producing fields causing a cessation of drilling activity in the \$15 million drilling programme.

Texaco said yesterday afternoon that a large number of employees were continuing to participate in unlawful industrial action at the Pointe-a-Pierre bond.

The workers continued to assemble at the bond preventing the delivery of petroleum products, including refined petroleum gas (LPG) and gasoline to the country.

The company said the work at the cat cracker, test and inspection, continued to be at a standstill.

"Employees in the producing fields are still unlawfully off the job and their action at Barrackpore has caused a cessation of drilling activity on the National 55 rig, which only recently started on the first well in

a development programme in this field which was in response to the lowering of the Supplemental Petroleum Tax (SPT) and the production levy as recently reported."

Meanwhile, Public Relations Officer of AMOCO, Mr. Frank Arlen, said yesterday that there was a blockade at the entrance to AMOCO operations at Point Galeota.

The persons demonstrating were not connected with the company's operations, he noted.

Mr. Arlen said: "Our workers did not down tools. There is no strike at our plant. Our production has not been affected by the industrial unrest at Galeota."

"In fact, our oil production for the past 24 hours was at the highest it has reached since September 1982. Production for the last 24 hours up to yesterday morning was 91,556 barrels."

"Our gas production has not been affected and we do not anticipate it would be affected immediately," he said.

He explained that there was a demonstration from about 5.30 a.m. by people not connected with AMOCO's operations. Some AMOCO employees who were unable to pass returned home.

A truck was reportedly put across the road and it was removed with police assistance. Later on a human blockade tried to prevent people from getting into AMOCO's premises. The headlight on a car was reportedly damaged.

Debris was also thrown onto the roadway to prevent passage of vehicles.

Charge of 'Duplicity'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 May 84 p 8

[Text]

ERROL MCLEOD, vice president of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union, should not be allowed to get away with the dishonesty of dissociating the leadership of his union with the illegal industrial action being taken by Texaco workers.

Speaking to the Press on Wednesday, McLeod insisted that the shutdown of Texaco's operations was not inspired by the OWTU leadership; it was the

reaction of workers protesting Texaco's presence in the country.

Because of the blatantly illegal nature of the workers' action, it is obvious that McLeod cannot openly claim responsibility for instigating it, but he and other leaders of his union must know that they are fooling no one.

IMMUNITY

The unfair thing about this insistent "disclaimer," of course, is the immunity it is expected to provide the union

leadership while the workers have been placed in a most vulnerable position with respect to any disciplinary measures the company may decide to take.

McLeod also overestimates the gullibility of our public when he "credits" the workers for coming up with the idea of "one union, one struggle," of pegging the settlement of the Texaco issue to the resolving of industrial disputes with companies not connected with the Texaco matter.

That, he said, was what the workers wanted. But who does he really expect to believe that?

Attributing all these measures to the workers, of course, may well indicate the desire of the OWTU leadership to portray their union as a democratic organisation. Their anxiety to achieve this is understandable but, unfortunately, it bears no credibility.

In fact, the OWTU's duplicity in this respect is somewhat alarming. The evidence reveals that the leaders of this Marxist-oriented union, far from being democratic, are quite prepared to ride roughshod over the expressed

will of its members whenever it suits their purpose.

The union's dispute with Caribbean Steel Mills, fully disclosed by Labour Minister Errol Mahabir in his television broadcast last night, sticks out as a damning example of the true nature of OWTU's modus operandi and provides further evidence of the union's determination to pursue a policy of disruptive confrontation.

As explained by the Labour Minister, the facts of this dispute are quite simple. The workers in the bargaining unit at Caribbean Steel Mills were perfectly willing to accept a wage increase of 20 percent over three years, but this was rejected by the OWTU and, as a consequence, the company took lock-out action.

In a joint letter to the Minister, CSM workers said they considered the company's offer "to be quite reasonable and in the best interest of the workers for the preservation of our jobs."

Here was a group of workers informed and intelligent enough to appreciate the implications of the economic downturn, the need for re-

straint and the fact that their major concern in the circumstances should be one of job security.

EMBARRASSMENT

What was the reaction of the "democratic" OWTU in this case? Did the leadership acquiesce to the wishes of their members? Not on your life.

Union officials indicated to the company that, notwithstanding the workers' acceptance of its offer, the union was not prepared to sign any agreement for a wage increase of 20 percent which would have been an embarrassment particularly in light of other ongoing negotiations.

Following lockout action by CSM, all the workers signed new contracts with their employers and returned to their jobs.

The art of duplicity and the engendering of a spirit among workers of paranoia, persecution and of being victimised are good Marxist strategies. The OWTU leadership has learned its lessons well.

The question is, how gullible are our workers and our people?

OWTU Justification

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 May 84 p 13

[Text]

Over the past week workers employed at Texaco have been demonstrating in no uncertain manner their dissatisfaction with the Company's attitude to its employees in particular and the country as a whole. Some may ask how did this "sudden" action take place? The answer is simple.

The result of the Employers' policy of wage freeze/retranchment has inevitably brought forth a response from the workers, a response that the workers did not seek, but which has been forced upon them.

The crisis of capitalism has hit Trinidad and Tobago very hard and we are going through a period of shakeout within the capitalist sector. Concentration of capital has been taking place. There has been a flight of

capital of unprecedented proportions. Over the last three years tens of thousands of workers have lost their jobs, and thousands more have been forced to put up with minimal increases, speed-ups, more intensive exploitation etc.

These workers have had, in addition, to suffer the consequences of rapidly escalating cost of living, the removal of subsidies on basic necessities, a cutback in social services, grossly increased tax liability and a six year 'strike' by Texaco, which has totally de-stabilised our oil-based economy.

The Oil Companies have forced numerous tax concessions from the government and have run the industry into the ground.

The Government showing a lack of political courage, has succumbed to the oil companies and has tried to make up the shortfall by picking workers' pockets. The Government's squandermania, inability to deal with corruption and ill-advised prestige projects have further compounded an already difficult situation.

A graphic indication of the shifting of the burden of the capitalist crisis on to the backs of the workers is the dramatic change in the tax liability of the oil companies and that of PAYE individuals.

In 1981 Oil Companies contributed 63% of Government revenue while individuals contributed 14%. In 1984, oil companies will contribute 32% while PAYE individuals contribute 30%.

The single most important factor in the economic slide has been the de-stabilising effects of the policies of the oil companies. Yet the O.W.T.U. warned the government and the country, since 1978 about the trend of developments in the oil industry and possible options through which we could avoid the squeeze.

The much vaunted private sector which preaches "free private enterprise" and run to the state for protection at the first sign of competition have ripped off and pillaged consumers during the oil boom. They have done so through low wages, exorbitant prices, illegal export of currency, illegal import of a wide range of legitimate and illegitimate product, diversion of productive capital into speculative enterprise and financial manipulation, in effect they have

creamed off the top of that which they did nothing to create.

Meanwhile the modern day North American and European pirates plundered our economies for all it was worth while disguising themselves under the cloak of respectability.

They used transfer pricing, exploited loopholes in the tax laws, exported profit and monopolised large sections of the regional market.

Employers, at the beginning of 1983 took a deliberate and considered decision to carry the fight to the workers and since then the viciousness of the attacks on working people have surpassed anything seen in this country since 1937.

The period abounds with examples of capitalist hostility. Among these examples were the emasculation of the S.W.W.T.U. through retrenchment at Alcoa, the unparalleled brutality of the companies and the state against the Bermudez and Young Sing workers. The relentless and consistent media attacks on Port workers, T&TEC workers, Cement workers, public servants and teachers. The widespread retrenchment and closures throughout the East-West Corridor affecting workers at places like Holiday Foods, Charles Horvel, Charles Candy, Soft-drink manufacturers, Food Etc., Geddes Grant, Sproston, Metal Box, Trinidad and Tobago Printing and Packaging, Ministry of Works, Ministry of Agriculture and many other places.

Not content with the above-mentioned kind of action, the employers have decimated the sugar industry, destroyed a vibrant oil servicing industry and retrenched thousands of workers. Amoco has forced through its contractors a virtual wage freeze on hundreds of contract workers and has used every imaginable legal trick to block its permanent workers from being recognised as a bargaining unit of the O.W.T.U.

They have inflicted lock-outs on Fedchem's monthly paid workers, Caribbean Steel Mills monthly paid workers, Trac Mac workers, Mr Eneaney workers and other workers.

They have made deliberately provocative wage offers to workers which have no bearing on the individual companies' ability to pay. For instance 22% over three years at Mc Eneaney, 15% over three years at ABEL, 15% over three years at CPI, 15% over three years at Witco, 12% over three years at Trac Mac, 6% over three years at

Cannings, 6% over three years at Grell, 9% over three years at E.I.L., 9% over three years at Climate Control, 19% over three years at CTC Electronics, 8% over three years at Pan Am Standard Brands, 19% over three years at C.G.A., 5% over three years at Metal Box, 0% at Texaco which moved to 5% after wide-spread protests developed. Just to name a few.

The Industrial Court seems to have accepted the capitalist argument that wages need to be kept down. The P.T.S.C. and Singer judgements clearly indicate that the Court will provide no relief for the battered and bemused workers.

It is against this background that workers all over the country began to realise that if they were to keep their heads above water, they would have to rely upon themselves and their own resources. This is why Lever workers took legal strike action. This is why Grell workers took legal strike action. This is why Climate Control workers took legal strike action.

It is against this background we must view the restlessness of Amoco's permanent and contract workers on the East Coast. It is against this background we must view the anger of the Cement workers at the improper practices pursued by their management.

It is against this background that we must view the apprehension of the T&TEC workers as to the intentions of their board.

It is against this background we must view the insecurity expressed by public sector workers, teachers and civil servants in particular.

It is against this background we must view the widespread and growing protest movement that has developed among oilworkers since Thursday May 10th.

The Oilfields Workers' Trade Union has been accused time after time in the print media of pursuing some demented Marxist conspiracy to bring chaos and confusion to the country in an effort to create social unrest.

OWTU

MASS PUBLIC MEETING

TODAY FRIDAY MAY 18th 1984

AT

OWTU Hall Marabella

AT 4.00 p.m.

TOPICS [1] How to deal with
Wage Freeze/Retrenchment,
[2] Crisis at Texaco and
its effects on ALL
WORKING PEOPLE.

ONE UNION ONE STRUGGLE
ONE MOVEMENT ONE STRUGGLE

Is the O.W.T.U. responsible for the corruption, mismanagement, plunder, pillage and rip-off in our society which have pushed working people to the wall?

Is the O.W.T.U. responsible for the destruction of tens of thousands of families through the disruption engendered by retrenchment and unemployment which has led to alcoholism, drug abuse, crime and disrespect for human life?

Is the O.W.T.U. responsible for the new American anti-OPEC energy strategy which in the face of government indecisiveness has destroyed the refining industry in the country?

Is the O.W.T.U. responsible for the illegal foreign exchange leakages that have become a feature of our exis-

tence or the large scale fraud and chicanery that characterise the financial houses?

Is the O.W.T.U. responsible for the removal of subsidies, increase in taxation and cutback in social welfare that have stripped all protection from those least able to afford it?

Social unrest is an inherent, inevitable and permanent feature of the capitalist system and is fed by the very development and expansion of capitalism. The innate greed and avarice of the capitalists are the main cause of the social unrest which will eventually destroy the capitalist system.

Far from being a disruptive force in the society, the O.W.T.U. has always attempted to make patriotic and constructive contributions to the upliftment and development of the quality of life in our beloved country.

Over the years the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union has consistently made suggestions as to the re-organisation of our country's economy and social structure.

Since 1937, the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union has called for the nationalisation and rationalisation of the oil industry. As early as the beginning of the Union, workers realised that a self-sufficient and independent economy could not develop here, if the commanding heights of our economy, particularly oil, was controlled by foreign companies.

This position has consistently been propogated by the Union during the forty seven years of its existence. Since 1978, when the O.W.T.U. recognised the changing pattern of operation that was developing in the international oil industry, we wrote to the then Prime Minister requesting a consultation with the government on the future of Texaco and the oil industry.

The Government responded with the now-infamous dead-end Commission of Inquiry. In September 1982, we delivered a well-researched memorandum on the mechanics of nationalising the oil industry. The government ignored this.

The upshot has been that taxpayers have been paying Texaco to stay in Trinidad and Tobago through the sell-out deal forced on Trintoc. Tesoro has been holding out for hundreds of millions of dollars for their holdings which they got for \$50,000 (US). Amoco has been applying endless pressure on the government for Marine Supplemental Petroleum Tax concessions and the country has been losing billions of dollars.

The O.W.T.U. has been consistently exposing the corruption that characterises state enterprises. Good examples are T&TEC and Trinidad Cement Ltd. Is this type of activity destructive?

The O.W.T.U. submitted a memorandum to the Minister of Labour on August 15th 1983 putting forward solutions that would have avoided the closure of the Sulphuric Acid, Ammonium Sulphate and once through Urea Plants at Federation Chemicals. This would have ensured the saving of jobs and the saving of vital foreign exchange. The plants have since been closed. Is this destructive activity?

The O.W.T.U. has been struggling against foreign companies getting jobs that can be done locally, for instance at T&TEC, and at Texaco. We have struggled against the use of expatriate labour on jobs for which locals have skills e.g. at Wimpey, Dunlop, Tidewater, Bristow and other companies. If that is destructive activity, then we are proud of our destructiveness.

It is simple-minded to put forward, as right-wing spokesmen of the capitalists have been doing, that the growing wave of workers' protest is due to a small group of faceless Marxist conspirators. It is simplistic and highly dishonest and shows absolutely no respect for the intelligence of working people.

Nobody threatened Texaco when they destroyed the refining industry. Why is O.W.T.U. being threatened for telling it like it is?

The Army was not put on alert when Texaco upset the development plans of the country. But when working people attempt to defend their means of subsistence, the guns become very visible and the threats fly thick and fast.

If we appreciate and understand the scenario painted above; if we appreciate and understand that most traditional channels of solving industrial relations problems have been closed; if we appreciate and understand that free collective bargaining has been destroyed by the employers, then we will appreciate and understand why the protest action which started at Pointe-A-Pierre has begun to spread throughout the entire country.

It is obvious that workers are demanding an end to the wage freeze policy, calling for just settlements to all negotiations and for a moratorium on retrenchment. Any honest, decent and patriotic citizen must support these demands.

Workers employed at Texaco are taking action to win these demands. If they lose, every worker in the country loses. Every patriotic citizen has a duty to support these workers.

ONE UNION ONE STRUGGLE

ONE MOVEMENT ONE STRUGGLE

Condemnation of OWTU Threat

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 84 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

JUNE 19, Labour Day is a significant day for this country, marking as it does the anniversary of the 1937 oil riots in the south.

As the day approaches, the southland is once again in turmoil, caused not only by the deepening economic downturn, but by industrial disputes the effects of which are bound to be serious.

Now at a meeting in Marabella on Friday night we have Mr. Errol McLeod, acting President General of the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) stating that if by June 19, all outstanding industrial disputes are not settled "You will find out."

We do not know who "You" refers to whether the workers, the Government or the general population. But implicit in the statement is a threat to the security and stability of the country. We sincerely hope that the authorities will not sit back and wait, but will read the signs of the gathering storm and take firm and immediate action.

The country is tired of being held to

ransom by a few hot heads who imagine they hold power of life and death over us all.

In the last few months we have seen some new dimensions in union behaviour which we cannot too strongly condemn. We refer to the abuse of families of management outside their homes, and to the hiring of hooligans to picket work sites and make it appear as if it is the workers themselves who are engaged in this unseemly behaviour. On Thursday last, AMOCO stated that persons demonstrating outside the company's premises were not employees.

Trinidad and Tobago has many problems to solve if we are to make maximum use of our now limited resources. In the past few years some militant trade unions have been often more hindrance than help in this regard and have succeeded in confusing a great many workers many of whom are now on the breadline.

How much longer are the workers going to allow these hotheads to run their lives to the ground?

ONR LEADER SEES PROSPECT OF MORE PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 7 May 84 p 48

[Text]

POLITICAL leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction, Karl Hudson-Phillips, has warned that people would take to the streets to protest against high taxes and retrenchment in much the same way as they were demonstrating today for water.

The ONR leader was at the time addressing a large crowd at the Fyzabad Main Road near the market on Saturday night. Fyzabad residents said it was the biggest crowd ever seen in the town at a political meeting outside of an election year.

According to Hudson-Phillips, a series of protest demonstrations will be held by a major construction trade union during the Labour Day week beginning June 19. "On Tuesday, will be Labour Day," Hudson-Phillips said, "and on Thursday will be Corpus Christi. So there will be three days that week for you to watch carefully."

He added: "Labour must indicate to the Government that week that it is prepared to make sacrifices in order to preserve jobs. You will not have jobs if you do not take a stand now. Something must give and you will not get something for anything. It is so the game is played. You must unite behind your leaders when the time comes."

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Abdool Aziz and included addresses by Councillors Arthur Sanderson and Evran Ramadharsingh, Deputy ONR political leader Surujrattan Rambachan, Evans Maskell of the Brotherhood Union and Dr Robert Maharaj. It followed a march for water around Fyzabad market by hundreds of chanting residents.

Hudson-Phillips said that people were not getting water although the water rates had doubled. He said

the only language the Government understood was confrontation and demonstration. And he reminded the crowd that it was only after a massive demonstration that work began on the Mosquito Creek to give relief to motorists.

"If you do not demonstrate to bring down the taxes, they will get higher and higher," Hudson-Phillips said. "You will have to demonstrate to demand work or else you will stay home and starve."

The gathering was told that some areas of Fyzabad and Rousillac received water while areas on the borders of these two villages which had no tap water for 11 years got a supply last week. The ONR leader said that it was only through the determination "of the suffering masses" to mobilize and march into San Fernando and Port of Spain that water was passing through the taps.

He accused Trinidad and Tobago Television of not wanting to show the plight of the residents on state-owned TTT because it would offend the Government. But the time had come, he said, for the people to join hands to struggle against the common source of all the problems in the country — the ruling People's National Movement.

He said the mobilization of the people must be peaceful, but vibrant. He described the PNM as "a plague in the land which must be removed."

He said the struggle against labour oppression began in 1936 in Fyzabad and it appeared to him that the struggle for water started in the same place 48 years later.

He told the crowd that they must support the move by Councillors Sanderson and Ramadharsingh "or the Government would persecute and crush them if they realise that the people had not been behind them."

ONR COMMITTEE SAID TO PLAN 'COUP' TO OUST DEPUTY LEADER

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 2 May 84 p 56

[Text]

CERTAIN elements within the national committee of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) are reportedly planning a coup to remove Alderman Surujrattan Rambachan as deputy political leader of the four-year-old political party.

It was learnt that three senior members of the national committee were due to call for Rambachan's resignation and replacement as deputy political leader when the committee meets on Saturday. The main reason advanced by this group for firing the deputy political leader was that Rambachan had not been attending executive meetings as regular as anticipated. The post of deputy political leader of the party is filled by a direct nomination of the political leader Karl Hudson-Phillips. There is no voting in this matter and the deputy political leader operates at the pleasure of the political leader.

Rambachan is the first deputy political leader of the party. The national committee, if it has a substantial number of people voting on Saturday can force the political leader to revoke the appointment of Rambachan and have the post filled even without convention approval.

But when contacted yesterday Hudson-Phillips denied knowledge of any such action. Said Hudson-Phillips: "I know of no such thing. The deputy political leader is appointed by the political leader and I know of no such

plan to replace the deputy political leader."

Hudson-Phillips however, indicated that he will undertake a meet-the-party tour beginning next week. Party chairman Roy Augustus also denied such a move. Said Augustus: "I do know a lot of things but this is certainly news to me."

Contacted yesterday on the report, Rambachan declined to comment. However, he said that during the past four years, "I have tried to do my best and I will continue to do things to the best of my ability. This is a democratic party and if what you say is true, then I must accept the decision of the party." Rambachan is at present the Chairman of the St Patrick County Council. He had been one of the main supporters of the accommodation strategy with the National Alliance. Rambachan said he was "committed" to the accommodation strategy.

Under Rambachan's leadership, the St Patrick County Council had made a favourable impact on the county. He is also involved in religious activities which is reportedly responsible for his inability to attend executive and other meetings of the party. Political observers in the south said that the southern regional co-ordinator Dr Robert Maharaj is emerging as a strong contender for the post if it should become vacant. Last weekend the party celebrated its fourth anniversary with an ecumenical service at the Couva RC Church.

PAPER WONDERS WHAT FRANCIS' FUTURE ROLE IN PNM WILL BE

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 8 May 84 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

ACCORDING to Minister of Works Hugh Francis, "Within recent times the esteem and prestige values of the organization do not appear to be as high as it used to be in times gone by."

It was perhaps not by accident that Minister Francis choose a conference organized by his party's Youth League, on Sunday, to make this assertion and it was, perhaps, not by accident either that he chose to make it in the presence of his Prime Minister, George Chambers.

The Prime Minister, after all, put the party's image near the top of the PNM agenda not too long ago when he pressed for the selection of Attorney-General Russell Martineau as the party's first vice-chairman, at the expense of Francis himself.

Indeed, an observer at the rally could very well have left with the distinct impression that Francis was chiding the Youth League members for not

involving themselves in the conflict that took place within the party over the issue of the vice-chairmanship.

Or he may have been simply, as they say, "laying tracks for gouti to run": "It is particularly important in a political organization such as the PNM, in order to effectively function, that you decide you will either be hot or cold. You cannot be lukewarm." And, later in his address: "It is so easy for us to sit down and accept the dictates of others, rather than attempt to do things on our own; not to rock the boat, to maintain the status quo..."

Francis was not mincing words. He was encouraging conflict within the apparently monolithic PNM organization since he was of the view that "the kind of opinion we have of conflict of being counter-productive is not always the correct one."

That within the PNM ranks of the Williams era would have been tanta-

mount to heresy, and it was, therefore, all the more remarkable that Francis should have gone back to the founding fathers of the PNM, so to speak, to buttress his case: "When the PNM was founded as a social movement, it was founded to shake the status quo; it was founded because we felt that the social order that existed then did not meet with the needs of the vast majority of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago."

What Francis was after, as he told members of the Youth League, was "progressive change," and the whole tenor of his address was that before that change could come about in the PNM a great deal of conflict was necessary.

Further heresy, and for his part Prime Minister Chambers, when his turn came to speak, focused on what his party had done since it came well and truly into being in 1956, poured cold water on ideas that were raised at the rally aimed at changing the party's constitution, and all in all emphasized the role the PNM had played in Trinidad and Tobago.

It might have been possible to dismiss all this as just internal party politics were it not for the fact that the PNM is so interwoven into the fabric of Trinidad and Tobago. The Prime Minister was guilty of hyperbole when he declared that without the PNM there would be no Trinidad and Tobago.

But since 1956, and the more so since Independence, the party, whatever its strengths and weaknesses, has been in control of the national destiny and Chambers was right in the sense that without the PNM we would not have had this kind of Trinidad and Tobago.

Supporters of the ruling party may take that to mean that we might have been without certain essential freedoms and the advances in infrastructure and the social mobility that has undoubtedly taken place, and those in opposition might argue that the question is not where we are but where we might have been had the PNM not become the stultified, monolithic organization that Francis seemed to be making out that it is.

One of the fascinating political developments within the PNM, certainly between now and the next elections, will be to see the continuing tactics that Francis adopts. He capitulated on the question of the vice-chairmanship, but last Sunday's speech is an indication that it was simply a tactical retreat rather than a surrender.

What makes the challenge even more interesting is that Minister Francis is now pitching his line at the party's youth as if to suggest that he is moving himself to the forefront of a possible changing of the guard. In the past those that tried that within the PNM got their political heads chopped off, but then again these are different and infinitely more complex times.

PNM CHAIRMAN NOTES HOPES FOR TOBAGO, DENIES INTERNAL ROW

Comment on Tobago Election

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 13 May 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] IN FIGHTING mood last week Chairman of the People's National Movement Francis Prevatt took on House of Assembly Chairman A. N. R. Robinson and the DAC over the question of the forthcoming Tobago convention.

Prevatt stated: "Mr Robinson made a comment that the PNM is going to hold a convention in Tobago which will give Chambers an advantage in getting his candidates elected to the various party posts."

"Mr Robinson is evidently attempting to persuade the people of Tobago that the DAC is invincible in Tobago. Suffice it to say that the PNM is not of Robinson's view. We feel that sooner or later the people of Tobago will realize that their best interest lies now, as it has been in the past, under the umbrella of the PNM. And sooner or later they will show this realization through the ballot box."

Prevatt was asked to comment on a fairly widespread view that the Tobago House of Assembly elections later this year will be the opening shot in the election campaign for 1986.

Prevatt did not share this view. "The House of Assembly elections will have no bearing on the 1986 General Elections," he said.

It has been suggested that it would be a blow to the credibility of both the party and Chambers if the convention went to Tobago and the PNM were still badly beaten in the Assembly elections.

But Prevatt disagreed. "It would not matter," he said. "Two out of 36 seats will not make much difference."

Prevatt was asked how well he expected the party to do in the House of Assembly elections. But he was not prepared to speculate at that point. "You never can tell what will happen in politics," he said.

But was the party worried about the shape it was in? The party sees the need to revamp its organization in Tobago, he said. "In the circumstances we think we should take steps now to improve our position in Tobago."

Was the convention part of this strategy? "Naturally we hope that the convention will help," Prevatt said. "It can do the Party nothing but good."

But Prevatt dismissed as "absurd" speculation that Chambers was using the Tobago convention to strengthen his position within the party. "If he wanted to do something it would be just as easy to do it here as in Tobago," he maintained.

Prevatt said that there was a false belief, ("typical of the misinformation about the party"), that a Tobago Convention in September would be a first for the party. In fact, the party had held a convention in Tobago in 1969. "I do not think that anybody believes this was done to give the then political leader any advantage," he quipped.

He went on: "Mr Robinson says that Mr Chambers will benefit because only the well-to-do members of the PNM will be able to go to Tobago for the convention."

"This is an absolutely false notion. The PNM will ensure that every delegate duly nominated to attend the convention in Tobago will in fact so attend, whether he is well-to-do or not."

Prevatt reiterated that no final decision had yet been taken on the Tobago venue. But he confided, "Quite frankly, the changes are that it is likely to come off."

Prevatt said he could understand Robinson wanting to make "political play" with all the talk of warring factions within the PNM. "One would expect Robinson and other opposition leaders would earnestly wish that this would be a reality. But it is a wish that would not be fulfilled."

He continued: "In the PNM we have members from all segments of Trinidad and Tobago--town and country, university-trained people and people with only an elementary school education, people of vast experience and young people new to politics."

"In such an organization one must expect that you will have differences of opinions. One would expect conservative elements as against liberal elements."

Prevatt was asked whether he thought Chambers would be challenged for the post of Political Leader at the next convention. He said this was "hardly likely." But he noted that any other officer could be challenged "including the Chairman."

Was he thinking of retiring? "No decision has been made on that matter," Prevatt responded. "I'm not thinking about that at all. When the time comes I will make up my mind." But he gave the assurance that, were he to retire, he would remain available to serve the party in the role of elder statesman.

Admission of PNM Decline

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 May 84 p 1

[Text]

ELEMENTS within the People's National Movement are of the view that the Government should be more sensitive to the views of the party. This was revealed last week by party chairman, Francis Prevatt, in commenting on reports of about recent stresses and strains within the party.

In an exclusive interview with the EXPRESS, Prevatt took issue with Tobago House of Assembly Chairman A.N.R. Robinson and others who have recently spoken about "warring factions within the PNM."

But the party chairman did admit that there were elements within the party who "would like to think that the Government should be sensitive at all times to the party."

"There is a school of

thought that this is not sufficiently the case," he added. "What the fellows are saying," Prevatt explained, "is that the party should be in a position to indicate a party view to the Government on major issues."

Prevatt noted that under the Westminster system of government followed in Trinidad and Tobago, "it should not appear that the PNM is telling the Government what to do and what not to do." But at the same time it was felt that "a greater effort should be made to have the party formulate its view for the benefit of the Government."

Prevatt was commenting on recent speculation about ideological conflict within the ranks of the ruling party. Commentators have hinted at the possibility of a technocratic, or right-wing element, opposed by a

populist, or left-wing element.

But Prevatt downplayed ideological differences within the party. "There isn't a Marxist arm or a liberal arm. No such extremes exist within the party."

When asked whether the conflict centred on personalities, Prevatt replied, "You can't expect not to have personality conflict. It happens in the best of families."

He found nothing amiss with Hugh Francis's recent remarks to the party youth arm about alleged mouse-like behaviour in the party. And asked to respond to Francis's charge that there had been a decline in the prestige of the PNM, Prevatt responded: "That is a fact. That is the very reason why Chambers has been calling for 'new blood' and a 'new image' within the Party."

Apparently alluding to the prominence of the technocratic element in Chambers's Cabinet, Prevatt pointed out that because of the larger Parliament the Prime Minister of Great Britain would have more "flexibility" in making appointments.

"Suppose you wanted to re-shuffle the Cabinet, it would be easier with 300 MPs as opposed to 30. The expertise available from among parliamentary members would be so much greater," Prevatt added.

Prevatt pointed out that, while the two countries operated under the same system, there would be differences in the actual functioning of the system determined by different conditions.

He did not advocate an increase in the number of parliamentary seats. The party supported the present constitution, he said.

Election Go-Ahead

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 May 84 p 1

[Text]

LOCAL Government Minister Dr. Cuthbert Joseph yesterday initiated debate in the House of Representatives on the draft of the second report of the Elections and Boundaries Commission on the Tobago House of Assembly.

He told the Lower House that Government was seeking parliamentary approval of the report which would enable the Commission to go ahead with preparations for holding the assembly's election in November this year.

First to speak after Minister Joseph was the Opposition Member for Tobago East, Miss Pamela Nicholson, who repeated a call for political parties to have representation on the Commission.

Throwing out a charge of "gerrymandering" in the distribution of the

electorate in the sister island, Miss Nicholson made out a case for the social, cultural and historical considerations coming into play when drawing up boundaries rather than the principle of the equitable spreading of the voters.

FREEDOM ENSHRINED

She boasted that despite the changes recommended in the report the Democratic Action Congress would win all 12 seats in the November elections.

The Opposition Member for Oropouche Mr. Trevor Sudama backed Miss Nicholson's charge of "gerrymandering" and said the ruling PNM would lose the November polls.

Mr. Sudama was stopped by the Speaker on several occasions for being irrelevant. He began his contribution by declaring he was concerned about the statement made in the House last week by Prime Minister George Chambers that a parliamentary reporter must be dealt with for writing that the Demas Report was not available to the public.

The statement implied a threat to the freedom of the Press and he would

always fight to ensure it remained that way, he said.

But Prime Minister Chambers on a point of order reminded the Member that it was the PNM Government which enshrined freedom of the Press in the Constitution.

Mr. Nizam Mohammed, Opposition member for Tabaquite, failed to convince speaker Matthew Ramcharan that the impasse in the oil industry warranted the House being adjourned (to 6 p.m.) to discuss the matter.

CSO: 3298/846

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO RELATIONS CONTINUE TO SHOW STRAINS

Appeal of Ruling on Assembly

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 9 May 84 p 4

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text] SCARBOROUGH: THE Tobago House of Assembly will appeal the decision of Justice Kester McMillan who ruled against it in an action against the Attorney General for a judicial interpretation of its functions under the law.

The decision to appeal was taken yesterday at a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Assembly presided over by Chairman ANR Robinson.

The Assembly will now instruct its solicitors to file the appeal before the May 16 deadline.

In a 26-page judgment Justice McMillan, on April 4, ruled that the Assembly did not have exclusive authority to implement government's policy in matters contained in Section (21) 1 of the Act which created the Assembly in 1980.

A copy of that judgment, together with a report from the Assembly's legal officer, Randolph Murray, was before the meeting yesterday held at the Fairfield Complex on Facolet Street, Scarborough.

At the end of the meeting, Robinson issued a statement in which he said that Murray reported to the meeting that the judge had agreed with the Assembly's lawyers Algernon Wharton and Alan Alexander on the following three fundamental points:

--The constitution of the republic was amended by the Tobago House of Assembly act;

--Under the Act certain executive powers have been transferred from the President of the Republic to the House of Assembly.

--The Assembly is not the agent of the central government.

"However, the learned judge disagreed on other matters while some critical issues appeared to the Assembly's lawyers to remain unresolved," said the statement.

"The Assembly has accordingly decided to instruct its solicitors to lodge an appeal. Time for filing the appeal would expire on May 16, 1984," concluded the statement.

Rights Bureau Support

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 11 May 84 p 22

[Text] THE Human Rights Bureau has supported the move by the Tobago House of Assembly in seeking effective control over its affairs.

It has also called for the emancipation of the people of Tobago from what it termed the "political slavery" imposed by the ruling People's National Movement.

Bureau Chairman Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj said yesterday that the bureau would lend its support to the struggles of the Tobago House of Assembly through a public meeting to be held on Thursday at the Chaguanas Market Square beginning at 7 p.m. The Tobago affair and its implications for the constitution, as well as the water problems now being faced by the people of this country, will be discussed at the meeting.

In a statement released yesterday, Maharaj said the bureau is of the view that the reason for the creation of the Tobago House of Assembly was to give wider powers to the people of Tobago. He said that policies of the central government vis a vis Tobago are not in the interest of the people there and run counter to the constitutional requirements. Said Maharaj: "Recent actions of the government demonstrate that it intends continuing the yoke of oppression around the neck of Tobago and to decrease the right of full representation by the Tobago House of Assembly."

The bureau statement continued: "The bureau feels that the time had come for the people of Tobago to be emancipated from the yoke of oppression imposed by the ruling PNM. We deprecate the recent situation where it was reported that the political affiliation to the ruling PNM was a condition under which Tobagonians could be assured a DEWD job". The bureau pointed out that DEWD was a government-financed utility which should be open to employ persons of any political affiliation without fear or favour.

At tomorrow's meeting in Chaguanas, the bureau had invited representatives from the main opposition parties including the Alliance, the DAC, Tapia, NJAC and the ONR to address the meeting. It was expected that Opposition leader Basdeo Panday will be among the main speakers.

Clarke Call for Harmony

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 16 May 84 p 56

[Text]

Scarborough:

PRESIDENT Ellis Clarke said yesterday he hoped that a new spirit of communication and understanding would develop between the Central Government and the Tobago House of Assembly.

He was at the time opening the final section of the Claude Noel Highway in Tobago which, he said, opened up vast new road communications in the island.

"But has the communication problem been solved?" asked the Presi-

dent. "I hoped that whatever was the failure of understanding and communication that existed in the past may now have been cleared.

"Let everything proceed now in harmony," said the President who recalled that when he inaugurated the Assembly in 1980, he had expressed the confidence that it would improve the lot of the people of Tobago.

And he added if there is improvement in Tobago, it follows that there is improvement in Trinidad.

"Just as you can't do

harm to one without doing harm to the other, so too you cannot do something to benefit one without benefitting the other," said the President.

Earlier, Assembly Chairman ANR Robinson had told the President that construction of the highway, which was supervised by the Assembly, was "a national triumph...a unique record...completed on time and within budgetary allocations."

This said the President "was one bit of good news in an ocean of bad news." It was clear

evidence, he said that the country can succeed if it does not lose face in its ability to succeed.

"What more do we want to prove to ourselves that we can do the job if we get down to it?" asked President Clarke.

Minister of Works Hugh Francis, who also addressed the gathering said that the presence of the President was a clear indication of the co-operation which should exist between the twin island state of the Republic and "lends the lie to all those who try to separate us."

CSU: 3298/846

FIRE AT TELCO'S SOUTHERN OFFICE BELIEVED TO BE ARSON

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 2 May 84 p 56

[Text]

THE Administrative Office of the Telephone Company (Telco) in San Fernando was destroyed in an early morning fire which Fire Prevention officials believed was deliberately set.

The fire which began around 5.30 a.m. yesterday gutted the steel and galvanize structure at Victoria Village, near Cross-Crossing, before San Fernando firemen brought the blaze under control. Meanwhile fire workers assisted in putting out another fire which had just begun, about 25 metres away, in a shed which stored telephone cables. A Fire Prevention official said there was a strong scent of gasoline in the cable shed.

The fire was the second at Telco's southern headquarters within two years. Last year, the Telephone Company recorded sizeable losses when several rolls of cable were destroyed at the company's previous location at Cross Crossing.

The Victoria Village building which was valued at \$200,000 was leased to Telco by south businessman Mohan Rampersad. Office equipment valued at an estimated \$100,000 was also destroyed.

Fire Prevention officials said the fire began in the

Mezzanine level in both the north eastern and south western points of the building. Some shift workers who were in the building raised an alarm. Units from the San Fernando fire station prevented the fire from spreading to the company's nearby "property". The fire-fighting team included divisional fire officer (DFO) Boucaud, assistant DFO Chicker Gunness and Assistant DFO James.

The two points of origins of the fire and the scent of gasoline led Fire Prevention officials to believe that the blaze was "not accidental." The Fire Prevention official however, said that the situation would have been "disastrous" if the fire in the cable shed had spread. According to him, the cables were made of polyurethane and bitumastic which are highly combustible. "It would have been extremely difficult to reach the fire from the rolls," he added.

A Telco official referred the EXPRESS San Fernando Desk to the company's public relations department when asked to comment on the fire yesterday. Telco is presently locked in an industrial dispute with its workers representatives - Communications Workers Union.

CSO: 3298/847

SUBSTANCE OF OPPOSITION ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT-MAHA SABHA 'PLOT'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Apr 84 pp 1, 15

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] THE MINISTRY of National Security has never refused a missionary an entry permit unless that person had a criminal record or was the cause of political or social unrest in Trinidad and Tobago or any other country.

This statement made in the House of Representatives by National Security Minister John Donaldson, did not dampen yesterday's verbal attack by Opposition members who accused Government of conspiracy with organisations and individuals to keep out certain people from Trinidad and Tobago.

Singled out for the Opposition's venom was Mr. Sat Maharaj, General Secretary of the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha, who was described as a "religious fraud" conspiring with the ruling PNM to starve a section of the community of religious and cultural nourishment.

In his contribution to the resumed debate on a motion moved by Mr. James Ogiste, the Opposition Member for Tobago West, "That this Honourable House take note of the Second Annual Report of the Tobago House of Assembly," Mr. Donaldson, without calling names (even though Opposition members repeatedly prodded him into doing so) spoke about the ban on one Hindu religious leader which was first mentioned by an Opposition member.

He also referred to a letter received by the Archbishop of Port-of-Spain who complained about the disrespect and intolerance showed to the local Catholic Church by visiting preachers.

Mr. Donaldson who also declined to give the name of the organisation who objected to the presence of the Hindu leader, drew members' attention to what occurred in Guyana at the Jim Jones commune.

He explained that when public officers got information with respect for permits, the information had to be checked and in the absence of getting all the pertinent information, the benefit of the doubt must either be given to the applicant or the community of Trinidad and Tobago.

He preferred that the benefit of that doubt be given the community, and added: "I just want to advise members of the opposite side that it will not serve the interest of Trinidad and Tobago on every possible occasion to inject issues which will separate this country into communal, religious or racial groups. It will not do us any good, especially the Opposition."

Mr. Kelvin Ramnath, (Opposition, Couva South) began his contribution by accusing Mr. Donaldson of banning persons not on positive investigation, but on hearsay evidence and political connection.

He could not understand the reluctance of Mr. Donaldson to name the Hindu leader involved and promptly did so--Sad Guru Sant Keshavadass.

Mr. Ramnath accused Government of conspiracy in the banning of Mr. William Clark, of the London-based Institute of Environment and Development, who was invited to Tobago by the Tobago House of Assembly.

The Opposition Member said that Labour Minister Errol Mahabir was embarrassed with Mr. Maharaj saying on a public platform that he (Mr. Maharaj) had deported the Hindu leader and would "deport everyone of them!"

He stressed that it was inconceivable that the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Port-of-Spain or the Anglican Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago would be seen speaking on a PNM platform as Mr. Maharaj did during the 1981 general elections.

Mr. Ramnath, a petroleum engineer, claimed Government did not want to take note of the THA report because it was not in control of the Assembly. Government practised the politics of vindictiveness.

Opposition Whip Nizam Mohammed (Tabaquite) said he was sad the Government side refused to accede to the motion. The report, he said, reflected the minimum progress made by the BTHA in 1982.

Heavily criticising Mr. Donaldson for not speaking on the substantive matter before the House, Mr. Mohammed, like Mr. Donaldson a lawyer, alleged Tobago was being victimised since 1976 when the island voted out the PNM in the general elections.

"I am extremely disappointed that the Minister failed to give any indication of hope for Tobago..."

Returning to the Hindu leader issue, Mr. Mohammed said certain politicians were prostituting themselves in the religious field.

He angrily warned that he could lead a demonstration of thousands of Hindus protesting the treatment of Keshavadass, not outside the office of Mr. Donaldson, but of Mr. Kamaluddin Mohammed, Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production. The Tabaquite members said no decision in those matter was taken without consulting the Minister. Archbishop Anthony Pantin and Bishop Clive Abdulah were held in awe by the Christian community unlike Mr. Maharaj, who could not command that kind of respect.

LOCAL RICE GROWERS FIND PLUSES IN GUYANA'S SYSTEM

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 25 Apr 84 p 6

[Text] THE Trinidad Islandwide Rice Growers Association (TIRGA) has called for the establishment of regional committees as a first step in boosting rice production in the country.

TIRGA advisor Ramdass Mahabir made the call at a Press conference in San Fernando yesterday. Mahabir was a member of a TIRGA team that returned at the weekend from a five day visit to the rice growing regions of Guyana. While in Guyana, the team which included Gayah and general secretary Surujdeo Mangroo, had been guests of the Guyana Rice Board and the Ministry of Agriculture. The team met with Guyana's vice president for agriculture Desmond Hoyte.

Mahabir said he was impressed with that country's rice industry, noting that rice farmers benefitted from that government's programme. He said that there were six regional rice boards in that country. Mahabir said that this government should appoint three regional committees in Oropouche, Caroni and Nariva. Mahabir said these committees would be able to plan a working programme to increase rice production here.

Mahabir said that a rice company was formed in Trinidad but no meeting of the company had been held after he had objected to the National Flour Mill importing rice for purchasing and distributing locally. He said that such an exercise should be done by the rice company. Mahabir said that the Guyana rice farmers were able to get loans based on their character from the Guyana Agricultural Bank. He noted however that local rice farmers were unable to get loans from the Agricultural Development Bank unless they had collaterals.

Mahabir said that rice was not converted into flour in Guyana. He said that Guyanese now use rice flour, rice biscuits and rice roti. He noted that the flour mills in Guyana, were modified to grind rice into flour. He said that there was no evidence of shortages of local food in Guyana. But he noted that imported foodstuff had been absent. Guyana has doubled rice lands amounting to 250,000 acres. He said that MMA project was likely to put 300,000 acres under cultivation. The project would cost some 500m (Guy).

CSO: 3298/847

GOVERNMENT DISCERNs SCOPE FOR GAINS IN EXPORTS, TRADE

Opportunities in Asia, Caribbean

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Apr 84 p 23

[Text] JOINT trading ventures with countries in the Far East will afford this country opportunities in widening its export product base.

This suggestion was among several outlined by Labour and Social Securities Minister Errol Mahabir as he addressed the southern division of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce yesterday.

According to Mahabir, joint ventures with countries such as Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong in exporting a variety of new products to the United States under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) arrangements, would seem to offer scope bearing in mind difficulties which these countries may have, unlike Trinidad and Tobago, in entering the United States market.

"Also having regard to the various constraints related to size and resources, joint efforts in exports management, industrial cost accounting and pricing for exportation, transportation by sea and air, overseas representation and other types of marketing facilities should be of considerable advantage to our exporters," said the Labour Minister.

He added that formation for export trading companies, whether private or jointly with this country, should also greatly assist.

Mahabir pointed out to the Chamber audience, that even as large and advanced as the U.S. is in export trading that country's Export Trading Act of 1982, which provides for the formation of such companies without fear of contravening Anti-Trust legislation, has been hailed as being most necessary and has in fact led to the establishment of joint export trading companies by some of the country's largest conglomerates.

Besides joint ventures, the Minister suggested a concentrated drive towards exports with non-Caricom Caribbean markets such as Martinique and Guadeloupe which enjoys preferential access under the Lome Convention.

He also included in this category Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands under the CBI and other places such as the Dominican Republic and the Netherlands Antilles.

According to Mahabir, these ventures could be done with the assistance of the newly created Export Development Corporation.

Benefits of Barter

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 2 May 84 p 37

[Text] **THERE is much to be said in favour of exploring possibilities of barter trading, now referred to as counter-trade, Labour and Social Securities Minister Errol Mahabir told an audience of the southern division of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce last Friday.**

Minister Mahabir said the trend has been growing in recent years in various parts of the world and the system is being pursued even by the larger companies in the most industrialised countries.

"It has been estimated for example that between 20 and 30 per cent of world trade is now subject to some form of counter-trade — whether by way of buy back, offset or counter-purchase—and that by the turn of the century the proportion could be as high as 50 per cent."

Mahabir added that a recent survey in the United States indicated that the number of reported transactions involving some form of barter has been increasing rapidly, at the rate of 50 per cent, 64 per cent and 117 per cent in each of the last three years respectively, and that, on average, eight per cent of

U.S. export trade now takes place by barter.

"Rapid developments in a similar direction are also reported as taking place in countries such as Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Indonesia and Malaysia," said the Labour Minister.

He pointed out that some 88 countries are now reported to be requesting or requiring barter arrangements compared with only about 15 countries in 1972.

According to Mahabir, "It seems clear that the financial crisis that so many countries of the world now face in terms of debt servicing, balance

of payments and erratic foreign exchange rates will serve to further accentuate counter-trading as a means of survival and therefore of necessity, we must also look in this direction."

Mahabir added that this line of action is of particular relevance to the current situation in the Caricom market in which this country's export trade has plummeted to its depth in recent times mainly because of the foreign exchange problems of our major trading partners.

Mahabir further noted that a successful export thrust will depend on how competitive our

products are because unless these can compete successfully at price levels in the international market, efforts may be in vain.

"Even in the Caricom market where our products are supposed to compete on privileged terms, we could find ourselves at a competitive disadvantage unless we are able to produce at favourable cost levels," said Mahabir.

He reminded the audience that if the country could not compete effectively in its own backyard, how could it realistically expect to penetrate extra-Caricom markets.

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